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THE TIMES

Looking ahead to the
cricket season:
John Woodcock, page 8

Scottish rebuff for Mr Jack Jones over pay restraint

A further threat to hopes of a new round of pay restraint emerged at the Scottish TUC last night when rank-and-file members of Mr Jack

Jones's transport union ignored his advice and unexpectedly voted to back militant miners' demands for an end to all pay curbs.

Transport men back miners

From Paul Routledge
Labour Editor
Rotherham

Mr Jack Jones, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU), last night suffered a serious reversal at the hands of his union's delegates to the Scottish TUC which further threatens hopes of a renewal of wage restraint.

Against the advice of Mr Jones, the chief architect of the social contract, the rank and file delegates voted at the Scottish TUC conference in Rotherham to support the militant Scottish miners who are seeking to commit the trade union movement to a policy of no pay restraints of any kind.

The sudden switch in policy by the TGWU delegation means that the miners' resolution on pay must now have a strong chance of becoming the official policy of the Scottish TUC.

Although the Scottish TUC has little power and limited influence in the Labour movement, a decision to reject incomes policy is bound to have repercussions throughout the unions.

The TGWU's delegates voted 18-13 to support the miners' and the union's 196,000-strong block vote is expected to tip the scales in favour of the militant line.

Mr Michael McGahey, communist president of the Scottish miners, said last night: "I am delighted that the Scottish TUC has taken this decision."

Mr Dell, Secretary for Trade, launched a biting attack yesterday on Japan's import restrictions and top-sided balance of trade with Britain. He warned the Japanese that Britain might not continue to resist local demands for protectionism if Japan failed to offer its partners reciprocal trade measures.

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Warning of 3 million unemployed by 1985

By Melvyn Westlake

Britain faces three million people out of work by 1985, just when the income from North Sea oil is starting to fall. If the nation's industrial decline has not been arrested by then the consequences for unemployment and living standards in the following years could be "disastrous".

This view is expressed by Mr Wynne Godley, the director of the Department of Applied Economics, University of Cambridge. Mr Godley, who has been both a consultant to the Treasury and a deputy director of the Treasury's Economic Section, delivers his warning in the latest edition of *The British Economy*, published yesterday by City stockbrokers Vickers, de Costa.

He argues that unemployment will be increased if Mr Healey maintains the nominal exchange rate of the pound at its present level, as the Chancellor hinted in his recent Budget speech.

The recent relative strength of the pound has provoked considerable controversy among economists over what should now be the appropriate policy towards the exchange rate.

The view that sterling should not be devalued or that it should be allowed to rise has received support from some influential commentators, and official policy appears to have changed from the previous position of allowing the pound to depreciate.

But Mr Godley says neither these commentators nor the Chancellor have given any indication as to how this policy is consistent with a reversal of the long term deterioration in Britain's competitive performance in world and domestic markets.

If sterling is maintained at current levels the prospect for unemployment is shown, according to new projections carried out by Mr Godley's colleagues, to be much worse than suggested in the March issue of the *Cambridge Economic Review*.

This conclusion, that if sterling was allowed to decline to maintain our competitiveness, the long-run adverse trends, combined with the prospective rise in the labour supply, would be likely to result in unemployment of 3 million by 1985.

Should the Government now adopt what Mr Godley describes as the "soft option" of maintaining the present sterling exchange rate, unemployment could reach 2.2 million by 1981 and 3 million by 1985.

This is because the assumed rise in wages—increasing faster than those in other countries—together with the maintenance of the present exchange rate, would squeeze company profits.

Helped by North Sea revenue, wages will still rise. But at the same time output, excluding North Sea production, will not increase fast enough to stop unemployment rising.

The stagnation of industrial production, together with the adverse trend in profits, make it very implausible that any industrial strategy could raise manufacturing investment, Mr Godley argues.

He calls for serious concern to be directed to the question of how North Sea oil can be used as the basis for Britain's regeneration, and not to finance her euthanasia.

Mr Callaghan is to fly to West Germany on Monday for a two-day visit to British forces there.

The Prime Minister will meet Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, at RAF Bruggen on Monday.



Dr Owen and his wife on arrival at Heathrow, showing few signs of strain after their arduous African tour.

Rhodesian Front congress agrees to negotiate

From Michael Knaife
Salisbury, April 18

After a sometimes highly charged and emotional debate today, an emergency congress of the ruling, all-white Rhodesian Front effectively gave Mr Smith, the Prime Minister, a renewed open mandate to negotiate a constitutional settlement.

Nearly 800 delegates passed by a large majority two amended resolutions. One urged the Government to "strive" to reach an agreement with the party's principles and policies. The other accepted the need for a settlement and urged the Government to ensure that "the rights of all communities are magnanimously guaranteed".

The congress was convened because of a rebellion by 12 Rhodesian Front Members of Parliament against the Government's moves to modify racial segregation laws. The rebels and their supporters claimed that the Government was betraying party principles in order to reach a sell-out settlement. The official purpose of the emergency congress was to "clarify" the party's principles and policies but it failed in fact to do this.

It also managed to leave an ambiguous attitude to the latest settlement issues. During his visit last week Dr Owen, the British Foreign Secretary, made it clear that the main issue was the acceptability of the introduction of majority rule in 1978.

At a brief press conference after the congress Mr Smith was asked whether it was his assessment that the majority of delegates accepted the idea of majority rule next year. He sidestepped the question, saying: "This wasn't really discussed in anything like those kind of terms, so I can't really report on that."

By accounts, however, the prospect of majority rule in 1978 was very much in the minds of the delegates. One of them accused Mr Smith of "sending the country on the same road as Zambia".

Asked to comment on this, Mr Smith conceded that some delegates had become "hysterical" but he said that "on the whole the debate had been constructive and forthright" although conducted in "strong terms".

Dr Colin Barlow, one of the group of 12 rebel MPs, commented afterwards that it had been a "no-change" congress and would allow the Government to "see the British initiative through".

In an hour-long interview on Rhodesian radio and television, Dr Owen has advised white Rhodesians that they would have to take action now on things which would take place in any case after the advent of majority rule—such as the abolition of all racial discrimination.

The Foreign Secretary made it clear that he sympathized with all the black nationalists. The nationalists, who had embraced the cause of war, were essentially "men of good will being driven to take up arms", he said. Dr Owen also said bluntly that democratic elections for the transfer of power to the African majority were impossible under the present Rhodesian Front Government.

Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes: Dr Owen said on arrival home from Africa yesterday that it would be extremely difficult to achieve a peaceful transition to majority rule.

"Inside Rhodesia there are many differing views, there is considerable scepticism almost verging on disbelief as to whether the Rhodesian Front and Mr Smith really do intend to give up power and accept a black majority government", he said at London airport.

It was not for him to make a personal judgment on Mr Smith's commitment. "I have got to conduct the negotiations as if he does believe what he says. I will judge the outcome and his intentions on events".

But Dr Owen added that he had warned many white Rhodesians that if they started negotiations, and in six months' time their actions gave cause for disbelief about their intentions, then there would be a very vicious backlash and world opinion would react very adversely. "The days of moving on this issue in a way that will be thought not to carry true conviction are over".

Dr Owen also gave a warning that there was no chance of the guerrilla war being reduced in scale.

At the meeting of EEC foreign ministers which he attended in London later in the day, Dr Owen confirmed that the idea of a trust fund for an independent Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), designed to encourage the white population to stay on in the country after independence, was very much part of the Anglo-American plans.

Sir Eric Miller in Peachey debts' clash

Sir Eric Miller was asked to resign as a director of Peachey Property Corporation because of personal loans and expenses of more than £200,000 incurred in the company's name.

Sir Eric, who stood down as chairman and managing director of the group two weeks ago and who has since refused to resign from the company, said last night that he still planned to stand for reelection at Peachey's annual meeting in May despite the opposition of his fellow directors.

Peachey's 1976 accounts, published yesterday, show that Sir Eric has repaid £177,671 covering what Lord Mals, who succeeded Sir Eric as chairman, yesterday described as "expenses not accepted by the auditors or by the board as company costs".

In effect, personal debt of Sir Eric is the sum of £84,343. Further details of any loans and expenses incurred by Sir Eric will be covered in an investigation of Peachey's operations by Price Waterhouse.

The report-commissioned by Lord Mals should be completed within the next few months and will, he hopes, forestall any question of a Department of Trade investigation.

In a statement last night Sir Eric says that he plans to stay as a director and that "no reason has been made known to Sir Eric Miller, nor communicated to shareholders... justifying the request by other directors for his resignation as a director".

"Sir Eric knows of no event, no fact and no allegation... to bring about this change of attitude (by his fellow directors)".

"The present strength of Peachey as a public company with assets exceeding £43m is principally the result of Sir Eric's endeavours since his association with the company from its inception in 1958".

Financial Editor, page 19

Five members of the Ulster Service Corps have been summoned for allegedly obstructing the highway with a vehicle checkpoint. The prosecution is expected to ask for an adjournment of the cases until next few months and will, he hopes, forestall any question of a Department of Trade investigation.

In a joint statement the Rev Ian Paisley, MP, and Mr Ernest Baird, leader of the United Ulster Unionist movement, said that Mr Molyneux had made serious allegations against his colleagues in the Unionist coalition and should either substantiate or withdraw his charge.

The bomb may not help to further the cause of those loyalists who are planning to take to the streets of Portadown, Co Armagh, today in support of a tougher security policy and of a group of Protestant vigilantes facing prosecution.

Nine support majority rule by Africans

By David Spanier

Good progress was made by the EEC foreign ministers at their political cooperation meeting in London yesterday. A statement of principles on southern Africa was drawn up, after Dr David Owen, the Foreign Secretary, had reported on the improved prospects for a settlement in Rhodesia.

The statement reaffirms that the EEC countries will do everything possible to promote democratic majority rule and non-racial government for the peoples of southern Africa.

The French decision to lift Moroccan troops to Zaïre was not criticized. The French Foreign Minister explained that when President Giscard

d'Estaing said the action was taken in the name of Europe, he meant not the Community, but the continent as a whole, according to an Italian source at the meeting. The French move, without consulting their partners, has raised some eyebrows in the Community, notwithstanding the general support for President Mobutu's regime in Zaïre.

Namibia (South-West Africa) also looms large in the problem of southern Africa. The foreign ministers confirmed their stand in favour of democratic elections and majority rule in Namibia. Dr Owen had insisted that there could be no deals with South Africa on Rhodesia or Namibia. He recognized that South Africa was not going to compromise either.

Mr Mason, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, yesterday denied that the prosecutions were a political decision and said there had been no interference by the Northern Ireland Office to postpone the hearings until after local elections next month.

The Army yesterday defused a bomb attached to a lorry carrying up to a thousand gallons of oil which had been left near the centre of Belfast.

The Irish Government announced yesterday that two more of the IRA hunger strikers at Portlaoine prison had taken food, leaving 16 men still taking part in a protest against conditions at the jail.

Strasbourg hearing, page 2

Strasbourg hearing, page 2

Palestinian named over triple shooting

A young Palestinian is wanted by police for questioning in connexion with the killing of three North Yemenis in London on Easter Day.

Scotland Yard named him last night as Ismail Yusuf Al-Akache, aged 23. He was jailed for six months more than a year ago for hitting a policeman at a meeting in Hyde Park and was later deported.

At the time of his arrest police found Palestinian Liberation Organization posters and pictures of PLO personalities in his hotel room.

Police believe he is back in London, and yesterday detectives raided 20 homes in London, Brighton and Dover.

Commander James Nevill, head of the anti-terrorist squad, appealed to "somebody who must know where he is" to tell the police.

His men have established that Mr Al-Akache booked into the Robert House Hotel, Westminster, London, on Tuesday before the murder of the former Yemeni prime minister, his wife and a diplomat as they left the Royal Lancaster Hotel. He did not return on Tuesday night after the killings.

The room overlooked the front entrance of the Royal Lancaster Hotel.

The victims were al-Qadi Abdulla al-Hadi, aged 65; his wife Fatima, aged 40; and Mr Abdullah al-Hammam, minister plenipotentiary at the North Yemeni Embassy, in London. They were killed with an 0.32 automatic pistol, which has not been found.

Mr Al-Akache spent two and a half years studying at an annex of the Chelsea College of Art, Design and Architecture in London and left after gaining his aeronautical diploma at Christmas, 1975.

Artist's impression, page 2

Artist's impression, page 2

Prince of Wales dines with Mr Callaghan

By Our Political Staff

The Prince of Wales had dinner with Mr Callaghan and a number of Cabinet ministers at Chequers last night, at the invitation of the Prime Minister.

Those present were: Mr Foot, Leader of the House, Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, Mr Mason, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.

Mr Callaghan is to fly to West Germany on Monday for a two-day visit to British forces there.

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Mystery over bomb threat to Mr Enoch Powell

From Stewart Tendler
Belfast

A mysterious attempt at the weekend to intimidate or kill Mr Enoch Powell, MP for Down, South, with a bomb reverberated yesterday in the "loyalist" political community with sharp exchanges and suspicion.

A 3lb bomb was found in the Orange Hall at Lisburn, Co Down, on Sunday after a telephone call to a Belfast newspaper.

On Saturday Mr Powell opened a fair in the hall and the call, claiming to represent an unspecified but proscribed loyalist organization, said that he was the target because "he is just here to take advantage of our people". But the bomb failed to go off the caller added, and he asked the newspaper to telephone the police.

The bomb was found hidden on an unused staircase leading to a stage. The hall was searched extensively by the police, but the fair and it was not known whether the bomb was intended to kill and was planted during the fair, or was placed afterwards as a warning.

Yesterday both the Ulster Volunteer Force and the Ulster Defence Association denied responsibility.

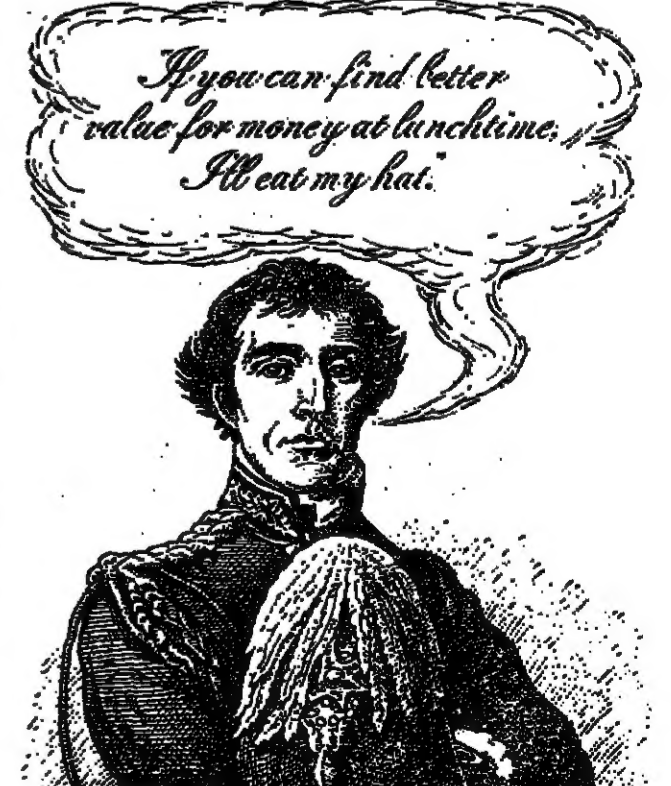
Mr Powell commented: "Just fancy that" when told about the bomb.

Mr Harry West, leader of the Official Unionist Party, pointed out that Lisburn was a strong Protestant area. "I would be very surprised if any IRA or nationalist could get into that Orange Hall", he said.

Mr Thomas Passmore, leader of the Orange Order in Belfast, said the act was the work of "disloyal loyalists", who could have murdered dozens of Protestants.

Mr James Molyneux, leader of the United Ulster Unionist Coalition MPs at Westminster,

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HOME NEWS

Russian interest in hearing of torture case against Britain

From Christopher Walker
Strasbourg

An intensive new wave of anti-Western propaganda is expected to arise from the crucial final round of the protracted case over allegations of torture made against Britain by the Irish Republic, which opens today before the European Court of Human Rights.

Most of Russia's main news gathering organizations will be represented at the four-day hearing before 18 international judges. The proceedings will cover detailed allegations of breaches by Britain of five articles of the European Convention on Human Rights, including more than 200 cases of ill treatment by the security forces between 1971 and 1974.

Besides preparing to relay to Moscow extensive accounts of the charges against Britain, the Russians are believed to be gathering material in advance of the important East-West conference scheduled for Belgrade this summer.

Although the Strasbourg hearings provide easy access to material damaging to Britain, it is not clear how valuable it will be to the Russians except for domestic consumption.

British sources emphasize that, although the court is likely to find against Britain to some extent, the Government has at least demonstrated willingness to answer the allegations before a recognized international tribunal.

In addition to the wide-ranging allegations of torture against British soldiers and policemen, the Irish Government will attempt to persuade the court to rule that the use of internment in 1971 discriminated against the Roman Catholic minority.

This argument has been rejected by the European Commission of Human Rights, which heard 119 witnesses before preparing a report that forms the basis for this week's proceedings. But the Irish Attorney General, Mr. Declan Costello, will urge the court to overthrow

that finding and declare Britain guilty of breaching Article 14 of the convention.

An early disagreement will arise over the admissibility of evidence heard in camera before the commission. The Irish will press for certain selected sections to be submitted to the court, while Britain will attempt to ensure that the verbatim transcript of the commission's hearings remains confidential.

That remarkable classified document runs to 4,500 pages, and remains a closely guarded secret, with one original and two copies in existence.

Among those who gave evidence to the commission about the operation of internment were General Sir Harry Tuzo, a former GOC in Northern Ireland, and Sir Graham Smith, a former Chief Constable of the RUC.

The British Attorney General, Mr. Samuel Silkin, QC, and a 10-strong team of lawyers and officials have been in Strasbourg since last Sunday preparing for the case, which could have serious repercussions for Britain's international standing.

Among points that will be most strongly contested will be the continuing effort by the Irish to secure legal or disciplinary measures against British soldiers and policemen involved in the allegations.

I understand that the Irish delegation will press that point, asking the court either to order Britain to take measures against its soldiers or to annul the commission's original verdict of torture to cover more than 200 cases of brutality allegedly committed between 1971 and 1974.

After this week's hearings there will be no immediate verdict. The judges will confer privately before issuing a final written judgment in the summer. As the case is the first of its kind between two countries in the court's 18-year history, there is no precedent for deciding what action, if any, will be taken against the British Government.

Hattersley hope of 13pc price rise rate

By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter

The Government's hope of bringing prices increases down to an annual level of 12 or 13 per cent by Christmas, and single figures thereafter, was reiterated last night by Mr. Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.

His comments came the day after Mr. Jack Jones, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said that the trade unions were looking to the Government for a temporary price freeze on essentials, a strengthened system of controls over the passing on of costs, and limits on profit margins.

Mr. Hattersley, who was being interviewed on Granada Television's *Reporters* programme, said that a total price freeze could not be imposed by any democratic government. "We cannot freeze everything because some price increases are unavoidable," he added.

But he added that there would be powers in the proposed Prices Bill to freeze specific prices.

When asked if he saw the Government getting into a confrontation with Mr. Jones over a freeze, Mr. Hattersley replied: "This Government needs to continue its partnership with the trade unions and Mr. Jones is central to that."

Mr. Jones knew that the Bill was "much tougher than anything done in the past."

"If we do not get a wage agreement," he said, "prices are really going to be up to the level of your production by Christmas." (A *Guardian* survey had suggested that increases are running at an annual rate of 21 per cent.)

"Need for flexibility": The next agreement between trade unions and the Government to hold down wages should be flexible, Mr. Hattersley, the Chancellor, said in a speech yesterday (Associated Press reports). He had been attending a meeting of EEC finance ministers.

"Fever of opposition": Mr. Grant, Under-Secretary of State for Employment, said last night of opposition to the pay policy (the Press Association reports).

He told a meeting in London: "Of course flexibility is vital and that has been clearly recognized. But the free-for-all should be as repugnant to socialists as it is to the nation as a whole."

TGWU men decline to help airport strikers

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter

Engineering workers who have disrupted British Airways for two weeks were denied vital support from other aviation employees yesterday. The 4,000 unofficial strikers are clearly alone in their continued stoppage and are under immense pressure to return to work.

A meeting of Transport and General Workers' Union members employed at Heathrow, attended by between 3,000 and 4,000 people, fell short of supporting the engineering workers in their unofficial action but threatened to shut Heathrow if any TGWU jobs were put at risk.

It is unlikely in the medium term that there will be any key-offs. The immediate prospect is that the engineering workers face a long battle in their claim for better shift payments and improved pay bargaining rights outside the normal negotiation machinery.

The Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers is applying strong pressure to the 4,000 to give up their unofficial action and to seek redress through the accepted machinery, based on management assurances that their case will be given a thorough airing.

But in an act of defiance the five AUEW shop stewards leading the strike called off a meeting of their supporters which had been planned for yesterday morning and which both the union and the

management had hoped would result in a vote for peace. The next move is due today at a meeting of British Airways management and AUEW leaders, called by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service, in yet another attempt to produce an acceptable peace formula.

Mr. Reginald Birch, the AUEW national officer who is leading the union's attempt to persuade its members to work normally, has been subbed several times during the two week dispute in his attempts to end the action.

Although the TGWU members have not backed the AUEW men, they are by no means happy with the management's handling of the dispute and British Airways stewards of the union have called for the resignation of Sir Frank MacAdams, British Airways' chairman.

Nevertheless, the union's 35,000 members throughout Heathrow are working normally and the airline yesterday maintained 60 per cent of European flights. Only four or five long-distance flights out of an average of 25 a day were cancelled.

Efforts are being concentrated on long-distance flights at the expense of European and domestic flights and all domestic flights were again cancelled yesterday. A similar pattern is expected today.

Yesterday's TGWU meeting was led by Mr. Leslie Shorter, the union's civil transport officer: "If BA threatens our

members we will not stand idle. We can close that airport. We have done it before." The union's members include drivers, cabin staff, firemen, loaders and refuellers.

There were no words of support from Mr. Shorter for the AUEW men and he appealed to them "to come back into the fold." He said: "We have bent backwards to help them. We want unity."

He said all negotiations should be conducted through the National Joint Council for Civil Air Transport. That was the only way to succeed. "We do not want this jeopardized by small elements."

Significantly, Mr. Shorter felt able to defend a union-management pact to keep much of the airline operating, a pact dubbed by the AUEW shop stewards as a "blacklegs' charter." Officially that pact is now defunct but the principle of covering the AUEW men's jobs where possible is still operating. Mr. Shorter's words merely emphasized the isolation of the engineering workers.

"We do not believe that we are blacklegging," he said. "Our members are just carrying out their jobs. We will keep the airline flying to safeguard the jobs of our members."

But he did add that the call for Sir Frank MacAdams' resignation had been made by 250 TGWU shop stewards. The demand would be presented to the Government.

The AUEW shop stewards criticized other unions yesterday for continuing to operate the "blacklegs' charter", which they said was supposed to have been rescinded. Mr. Jack Gandy, one of the stewards, said: "The charter has not really been withdrawn. Aircraft are being flown and spares are being moved."

He said he and his colleagues would not meet again until tomorrow morning. That would provide a breathing space in which to hold negotiations.

Refuelling plea succeeds: Workers on strike at Sydney Airport agreed yesterday to refuel four grounded Jumbo jet airliners after an appeal by international airlines who wanted to fly out hundreds of stranded passengers.

British Airways, KLM, Alitalia, Philippines Airlines and Singapore Airlines joined in the appeal and said the grounding of their aircraft was disrupting timetables round the world. The aircraft are expected to leave today.

The strikers refused to refuel aircraft over the weekend in support of petrol tanker drivers and refuellers in Victoria and Tasmania who went on strike for higher pay and better conditions.—Reuters.

Airline paralysed: A strike by more than 600 pilots, flight engineers and navigators paralysed the international and domestic flights of Pakistan International Airlines yesterday. The strikers are demanding shorter flying hours and higher pay.—Agence France Press.

Leading article, page 15



Sought by police: An artist's impression of Zohair Yousif Akache, aged 23, wanted for questioning in connexion with the murder of three North Yemenis outside the Royal Lancaster Hotel, London, on Easter Day.

Backing promised for pilots

From Ronald Faux
Aberdeen

As more union support was pledged yesterday for pilots of Bristow Helicopters Ltd, on strike at Aberdeen airport, flights to North Sea oil rigs and platforms were sharply reduced, and the company's airport fuel stocks were under threat of running low.

Transport and General Workers' Union members who drive fuel vehicles refused to work unless the strike was over. The strike is over the dismissal of a Bristow pilot, and has the official backing of his union, the British Air Line Pilots Association (BALPA).

Mr. William Banning, a BALPA industrial relations officer, said yesterday that offers of support had come from pilots of British Airways helicopters based at Aberdeen and Shetland, and from the National Union of Seamen and the Merchant Navy and Airline Officers Association.

He said Bristow Helicopters had received no fuel since Friday morning, and that fewer than half a dozen Bristow flights had left the airport yesterday, instead of the usual 25.

The strike is supported by more Bristow pilots. They are demanding the reinstatement of Captain Peter Royson, who received a letter of dismissal after refusing a posting within the company to Malaysia. Beyond this central issue is thought to lie the fact that BALPA is seeking recognition by Bristow, a non-union company.

Community centre for people mentally ill

From Arthur Osman
Birmingham

A self-contained community development for 168 mentally handicapped adults and children near Stourbridge, West Midlands, which has cost £2.25m, will start taking residents in the summer, it was stated yesterday.

The West Midlands Regional Health Authority said it was the largest of its type in the country, covering a 21-acre site, and was an important innovation in treatment for mentally handicapped people, being designed to provide as normal an environment as possible in terms of working and living.

The unit, called Ridge Hill, has been built in a valley adjoining Wordley Hospital, near Stourbridge, and provides seven homes, five for adults and two for children, a school and an activity centre. Each single-storey home takes 24 residents, with bed-sitting rooms for four, two or single residents.

The school will take the 48 child residents and an additional 50 handicapped children from the surrounding area.

The activity centre includes accommodation for doctors, therapists, community nurses and dentists. There is residential accommodation for staff and a day nursery.

French skipper forfeits £3,000 trawl net

From Our Correspondent
Hull

Pierre Coppyn, skipper of a French trawler found fishing in British waters with undersized nets, was fined £250 with £100 costs by magistrates at Hull yesterday. The court also ordered the forfeiture of his trawl net, worth about £3,000.

M. Coppyn, of the trawler *Guyennere*, pleaded guilty to contravening the North East Atlantic fisheries conservation regulation, to which the EEC is a party.

The prosecution said the fisheries officer of the fishery protection frigate *Hardy* found the trawler fishing for white fish 90 miles east of the Humber with a net that had a mesh size of 42mm instead of the 75mm required under the regulation.

M. Coppyn had said he was fishing for mackerel and herring, but there was little mackerel in the white fish haul the fisheries officer had seen brought up and the total catch contained only two boxes of herring.

Mr. Peter Martin, for the defence, said that under the French regulations the skipper was allowed to catch 20 per cent of mackerel with the 42mm net but under the British regulation it was not so.

Strike-bound firm serves writ on Acas

By Tim Jones
Labour Reporter

A London-based film processing laboratory which has been involved in a 35-week dispute with more than a hundred former employees has served a writ on the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas), alleging that it has exceeded its authority by taking an "attitude survey" among the striking workers.

In serving the writ of *ultra vires* Greenwich Processing Laboratories has ensured that a dispute which raises fundamental issues for the trade union movement will have a legal as well as a political ingredient.

The issues are complex but hinge on the company's decision to dismiss workers who had walked out of the factory last August in protest at pay and conditions. Greenwich management denied their allegations.

The Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and

Computer Staff recruited the striking workers and lodged a claim for recognition with Acas under section 11 of the Employment Protection Act.

An "attitude survey" undertaken by Acas, which did not include most of the 250 people still working for the company, culminated in a recommendation that the company should recognize the union.

Greenwich countered by maintaining that the opinions of those who lost their jobs were a foregone conclusion and not relevant, as they were no longer workers.

The union contends that if that submission was supported in law it would make the employment provisions of the Act meaningless and open a loophole that would enable employers to dismiss with impunity workers who asked for recognition.

It is understood that in its writ the company is seeking to prove that retrospective is part of the Employment Protection Act. The dispute has

involved High Court actions, arrests and convictions, sympathetic union action and a parliamentary debate.

It came to public notice when members of the Union of Post Office Workers refused to deliver mail to the company. Mr. Patrick Lyons said yesterday in his presidential address to the annual conference of the Technical, Administrative and Supervisory section of the engineering workers' union.

He added that the social contract was logically at an end because the Government had not fulfilled its part of the bargain. He recommended the trade union movement "and our political allies" to work to restore free collective bargaining at once.

Mr. Lyons told the conference in Southampton that the social contract was based on the £12,000m of value from working people to employers and others. No wonder profits were leaping and the Stock Exchange was rejoicing.

£10 a week 'lost under the social contract'

The social contract has made working people "a damn sight worse off" and the average worker has sacrificed about £10 a week, Mr. Patrick Lyons said yesterday in his presidential address to the annual conference of the Technical, Administrative and Supervisory section of the engineering workers' union.

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Bank union 'will not just watch living standards fall'

The National Union of Bank Employees (Nube) could not be expected to sit idly by while its members' living standards continued to fall, Mr. Tony Maughan, the union's honorary president, said yesterday.

He told Nube's annual conference, at Sheffield University, that the union would be demanding bank workers' living standards; even worse, erosion of differentials had distorted the pattern of pay.

At the same time, the employers seemed to be becoming more interested in seeing how much work they could get out of their staff.

The union was pledged to restore differentials as soon as possible. That would be in the interest of its members and of the industry, "which will certainly suffer if we do not have a return to free collective bargaining, or at the very least a

much more flexible form of restraint," he said.

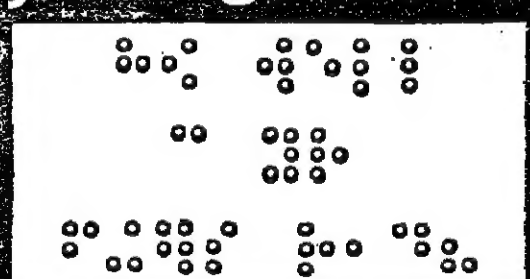
"So far we have not had any of the strikes that this problem has caused elsewhere," he added. But the union could not go on sitting idly by.

Pay restraint had also harmed the union in relation to the staff associations. "It tends to create the impression that the staff associations are as successful as Nube because the same limit is placed on our efforts as theirs."

Mr. Maughan called for tougher penalties against bank raiders. "Anyone who has met the staff of a branch that has been raided, even those not directly involved, is almost certain to share this view."

The banks had done much to reduce the dangers but only unsuccessful raids on the arrest of the criminals and the recovery of the money could discourage potential raiders.

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Woman died 'with a look of horror on her face'

Miss Jennifer Cooper, aged 26, an Oxford graduate, mysteriously died on waste ground 200 miles from her home in Hampstead, London, with a look of horror on her face, it was stated at an inquest at Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, yesterday.

She left her home in Wedderburn Road, Hampstead, cashed a cheque, and caught a train from Euston to Stoke-on-Trent, a city where she had never been, and apparently had no connections with.

Mr. Frederick Hails the coroner, said that when he saw the body "there was a look of horror on the face, the fists were clenched and the legs drawn up to the body. I don't know what could have caused that." He recorded an open verdict.

It was stated that death was due to heart poisoning by aspirin, paracetamol and cocaine.

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American praise for British Chemistry PhD

The reputation of the British chemistry PhD remains good in the United States, according to a survey of leading American employers.

The Chemical Society asked 40 senior managers in American companies whether they regarded the British qualification as highly as the American PhD. The society was also asked to record reports (for example by the House of Commons Select Committee on Science and Technology) of widespread American criticism of postgraduate science education in the United Kingdom.

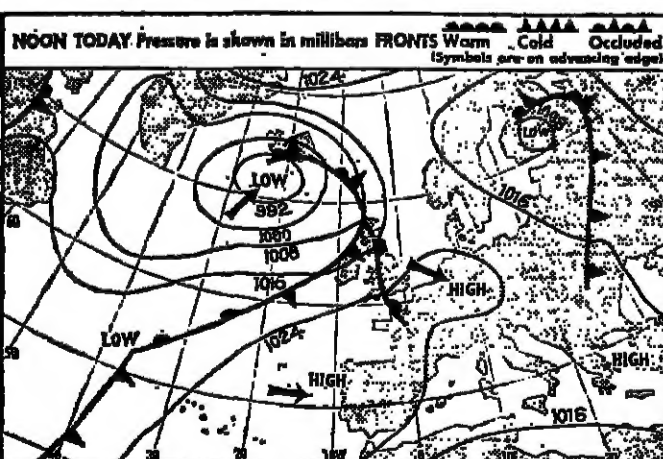
None of the industrialists was highly critical of the British PhD, and about half gave an unqualified assurance of absolute comparability of the British and American qualifications.

However, 10 respondents said British PhD graduates seemed less keen to take jobs in industry.

Five industrialists considered the American PhD to be better at taking an overall view of industrial matters while his British colleague concerned himself more with his personal field of interest.

There was also some feeling that the formal teaching element of American PhD programmes gave students "a plus", but no importance was attached to the fact that the PhD course was typically a year longer in the United States.

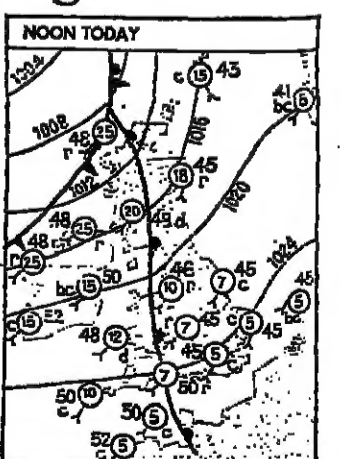
Weather forecast and recordings



Today
Sun rises: 5.57 am. Sun sets: 8.4 pm.
Moon rises: 6.28 am. Moon sets: 9.18 pm.

First quarter: April 26.
Lighting up: 8.34 pm to 5.25 am.

High water: London, Bridge, 3.20 am, 2.21 pm (23.7 ft); 7.42 pm, 7.31 am (24.0 ft). Avonmouth, 8.51 am, 13.00 am (42.7 ft); 9.23 pm, 13.00 am (42.5 ft). Dover, 12.33 am, 6.56 am (21.0 ft); 12.39 am, 6.44 am (21.1 ft). 7.38 am, 7.11 am (23.2 ft); 7.48 pm, 7.00 am (23.1 ft). Liverpool, 12.33 am, 9.00 am (29.4 ft); 12.46 pm, 9.11 am (29.7 ft).



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Troughs of low pressure will move E over the British Isles but pressure will remain high in the S.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:
London, East Angles, E Midlands, SE, central E England, Channel Islands: Rather cloudy, rain; 4 am.

or moderate; sea slight. English Channel (E), St George's Channel: Wind SW, moderate, locally fresh; sea mainly slight. Irish Sea: Wind SW, fresh or strong; sea rough.

Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday: Rain at times in N and W, mainly dry in SE, some bright intervals; rather warm in S, normal temp in N.

Yesterday
London: Temp: max 7 am to 7 pm, 9°C (48°F); min 7 pm to 7 am, 3°C (37°F). Humidity, 7 pm, 50 per cent. Rain, 24hr to 7 pm, 4.1 mm, Sun, 24hr to 7 pm, 1.7 hr. Sea level, 7 pm, 1.026 millibars, rising. 1,000 millibars—25.53 in.

Overseas selling prices
Austria, Sch 17, Belgium, Bfr 38, Canada, Cdn 25, Denmark, Dkr 46, France, Ffr 66, Germany, DM 3.50, Italy, Lit 200, Luxembourg, Lux 40, Netherl, Gld 2.20, Portugal, Esc 200, Spain, Ptas 166, Sweden, Swk 4.60, Switzerland, Sfr 2.20, USA, Canada, \$1.00, West Germany, DM 3.50.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: C, cloud; F, fair; R, rain; S, sun.

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain
Algeria	18	SE	100	
Amsterdam	17	SE	100	
Antwerp	17	SE	100	
Bombay	28	SE	100	
Buenos Aires	20	SE	100	
Calcutta	28	SE	100	
Canton	28	SE	100	
Cebu	28	SE	100	
Colon	28	SE	100	
Hankow	28	SE	100	
Hong Kong	28	SE	100	
Kobe	28	SE	100	
London	17	SE	100	
Lyons	17	SE	100	
Manila	28	SE	100	
Medan	28	SE	100	
Montevideo	17	SE	100	
Osaka	28	SE	100	
Paris	17	SE	100	
Peking	28	SE	100	
Rangoon	28	SE	100	
San Francisco	17	SE	100	
Singapore	28	SE	100	
Sourabaya	28	SE	100	
Tientsin	28	SE	100	
Yokohama	28	SE	100	

Boy found murdered
Glenn Thompson aged 15, of Little Staughton, Bedfordshire, was found dead with a hood tied over his head near his home on Sunday. A post-mortem examination showed that he had died of head wounds.

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Midland Bank International



Delivers.

Adapted by George Philip and Son Ltd. © 1977.

HOME NEWS

Jury told of threats to Oppenheimer family

A freed hijacker known as Flash Fred, said to be macabre and outrageous lengths to get money out of the Anglo American Corporation of South Africa, Mr Henry Pownall, for the prosecution, said at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

He added that Flash Fred, whose real name was Fouaid Hussain Abu Kamil and who was not before the court, lived in Spain and believed the corporation owed him £1m "give or take £100,000 or two".

Counsel said: "He was, and maybe still is, determined to get that money from the company and he has been prepared in the past to go to extraordinary, macabre and outrageous, not to say illegal, lengths to get it."

As an example, he hijacked an international airliner believing that one of the wealthy Oppenheimer family was on board, with the intention of demanding what he claimed he was owed by the company. He made a complete mess of it. Mr Pownall added, and was eventually jailed in Africa.

After release he embarked on a blackmail campaign against directors of the Anglo American Corporation, using an out-of-work actress, Jacqueline Holbrooke.

Mr Kamil, who was once employed by the corporation who in turn tried to recruit him, it was alleged.

Miss Holbrooke, aged 29, of Oxford Avenue, Raynes Park, London, pleaded not guilty to conspiring with Mr Kamil.

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'Phantom flyposter' joins in six-cornered fight for Crosland seat

Labour does not underestimate Grimsby task

Candidates: R. Blair (C), A. De Freitas (L); A. Mitchell (Lab), M. Nottingham (Malcolm Muggeridge Fan Club), M. Stanton (Soc Workers Party), and P. H. H. Bishop (Sunshine Party).

By Ronald Kershaw

Whenever one may say about the Government, its timing of beneficial announcements is impeccable. Mr Varley's statement giving parts of Humberside its long-sought development area status and the industrial incentives that go with it was expected by all the candidates in the Grimsby by-election, but obviously welcomed most by Mr Austin Mitchell, the Labour contender.

Even in the minds of his party workers, who confess that the result will be close, Mr Mitchell needs all the help he can get if he is to retain this historically Labour seat. His predecessor, Mr Anthony Crosland, whose untimely death caused the by-election, came very near to losing it at his first Grimsby election in 1959, when the Labour majority was 101.

Mr Mitchell's main opposition, Mr Robbie Blair, Conservative, and Mr Andrew De Freitas, Liberal, have expressed delight at the new status because both have been pressing for that kind of Government assistance for a long time. Although neither has said as much, they would obviously have preferred the announcement after April 28, polling day.

A fourth candidate, the elusive Mr Michael Stanton, an unemployed dock worker standing as a Socialist Worker, would have been likely to welcome the news, if one could catch him between canvassing trips. He has upset a few people in the factory areas of Grimsby by sticking his election bills on "no parking" signs and according to some party workers has become known as "the phantom flyposter".

The Conservatives, seeking to extract what benefit they can from the announcement, point out that the Humberside

campaign for development area status was started by a Tory-controlled Grimsby Borough Council, which had to relinquish the fight with the re-organization of local authorities to the Labour-controlled Humberside County Council, which was left to pursue the cause on behalf of Humberside as a whole.

Mr Blair is sensibly taking the view that he is delighted with anything that is good for Grimsby. As might be expected, he is critical of the timing of the announcement.

"The socialists always remember their promises at election time," he said. "But the people will know the Conservative Grimsby council was the first to demand development area status. The announcement shows just how far things have slipped in the past three years. This Labour Government has fiddled round with the fishing issue for years while Grimsby and other fishing communities have been run down."

Mr Blair's supporters are now slow to point out the confidence in the Government's reasoning which gives Grimsby, with an unemployment rate of a little over 6 per cent, access to extra cash incentives and still denies the same status to Bridlington, further up the coast, which has an unemployment

rate of about 10 per cent. Mr Blair's experience is that people on the doorstep are making it clear that "they don't know where the Government is going". He says: "For many of them it is a little too much to vote for the Tories, but there are a lot who are getting round to it and realizing that the Tories are not the ones their fathers said they were."

That, however, is not the experience of Mr Mitchell's followers, who are finding a "good response" to canvassers. They point with some satisfaction to a local election at Skegness last Thursday in which the Labour candidate won a seat from the Tories on the Conservative-controlled council. That, they claim, indicates a sympathetic response to what the Government is trying to achieve.

Even so, they say, if they are to win they will need good weather and sufficient cars to be mobilized to carry "back and forth" Labour voters. Mr Mitchell has said he does not underestimate the magnitude of the job he has to tackle, and if personal effort and enthusiasm counts for anything he is doing a workmanlike job.

The Liberals are tending to measure their popularity with the electorate by attendances

at their public meetings. Big Liberal names like David Steel and Cyril Smith have put in as many as 200 at a time, which in a town with an electorate of 66,000 is very good.

Mr De Freitas is leader of the Liberals on Grimsby Borough Council, and never having shrank from adopting a political label he does not have the difficulty of transformation to a political party that faces both local politicians who call themselves "Ratepayers, citizens and independents." His colours have been firmly nailed to the mast for the past 13 years, seven of them a councillor, and he believes the people of Grimsby are in tune with community politics.

Like the Conservatives, the Liberals believe that the fourth candidate, Mr Stanton, will siphon off some votes from the Labour candidate, and as one Conservative party worker put it: "If he filches 500 votes from Mr Mitchell, who are we to complain?" Bearing in mind Mr Crosland's narrow majority in 1959, that is a point worth considering.

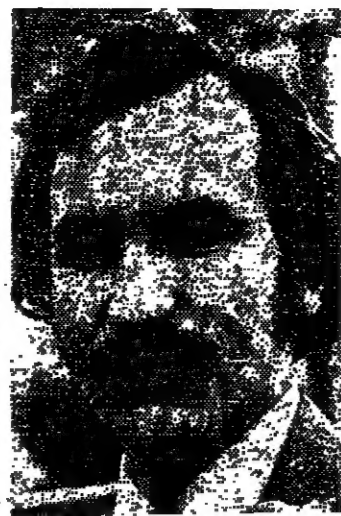
General election: C. A. R. Crosland (Lab) 21,657; M. C. Brown (C) 14,675; D. M. Rigby (L) 9,487; J. McElrea (Ind Democratic Lab) 166; Lab majority, 6,982. Voting: April 28.



Mr Mitchell: Needs all the help he can get.



Mr Blair: "Voters realizing Tories are not ogres."



Mr De Freitas: Pleased with attendances at meetings.

The local elections, 2: Campaigns for GLC launched

7 to 8 per cent swing is enough to carry the Conservatives home

By Christopher Warman

Local Government Correspondent

Confident of the outcome, concerned on the issues, and apprehensive of the apathy of the electorate, the defending Labour administration and the Liberals launched their campaigns yesterday for the Greater London Council elections on May 5.

The Conservative opposition, which has the national electoral tide in its favour, will cast off for the final stages today.

In simple statistics, there are 92 seats to be contested, the same single-seat constituencies as provide MPs for Greater London. The final total of candidates is 474, including Labour and Conservatives fighting all seats, Liberals 91 (not Newham, North-east), the National Front 91 (not Croydon, North-east), 24 Communists, 22 National Party, and 31 candidates for the party that seeks to abolish the GLC.

The official costs to the council are estimated at £710,000 for returning officers' fees, printing, and staff, compared with £265,000 in 1973. That gives some indication of rising costs in the past four years; and the total excludes the campaign costs of the candidates, which have also risen this year.

As the biggest local authority in Britain, which could take its place well up the league among nations of the world, using its budget of £2,000m as the criterion, the Greater London Council is the jewel in the local government crown, and the political parties constantly wish it to be theirs. Once it is, the sheer size of the organization and the criticism it engenders can almost become an embarrassment.

Inner London, the former

London County Council area, is predominantly Labour in support; outer London is the traditional ground of the Conservatives. In 1973 Labour had a victory better than it expected, and now it is defending its 57 seats against the Conservatives' 33 and Liberals' 2 (the first the party gained on the GLC, in Sutton and Cheam and Richmond).

Realizing the feeling that the Conservatives are in a position to gain the GLC jewel this year, Sir Reg Goodwin, Labour's leader, yesterday warned pessimists that his party did not accept that view.

The fact remains that since the GLC elections in 1973, Greater London has moved towards the Conservatives. In the general election of 1974 the Conservatives won five seats which Labour won for the GLC: Carshalton, Croydon, North-west, Hendon, North; Brentford and Isleworth; and Croydon, Central.

The Conservatives also hold in Parliament the two seats gained by the Liberals, which gives an added advantage and puts the Liberals under pressure to hold them.

A swing of 7 to 8 per cent to the Conservatives will be enough to gain them the 14 seats needed to carry Mr Horace Cutler into County Hall.

Adopting the national standpoint and seeing the present swing to the opposition at about 15 per cent, assuming that the 17 per cent Stechford turnaround was freakish, as Labour says, the result is in little doubt. Nothing is a foregone conclusion, but it should be noted that a swing of 5 per cent or less will give 10 seats to the Conservatives.

They are: Carshalton; Ilford, North; Croydon, North-west; Hendon, North; Ilford, South; Brentford and Isleworth; Croydon, Central; Lewisham, West; Hampstead; and Ealing, North. The next four, giving the breakthrough, are Putney; Battersea, South; Richmond; and Woolwich, West.

The next 16 days will tell whether the parties can make their policies for London influence the electorate, or whether the national mood will, as it went to do, carry the day.

Tomorrow: Scotland.

Home Office rebuff for jail inquiry

By Peter Godfrey

The Home Office has declined an invitation to take part in an independent inquiry into last summer's riot at Hull prison. Its own report on the disturbance is due to be published next month.

In a letter to Lord Harris of Greenwich, Minister of State at the Home Office, the chairman of the inquiry, Mr John Platt-Mills, QC, requested that prison officers involved in the incident should be allowed to give evidence because "this must be in the interests of establishing the truth."

He also suggested that representatives of the Home Office prison department might be present to give information by attending the proceedings as observers. The inquiry, to take place from May 27 to 30, is being organized by Prop, the prisoners' rights group.

Lord Harris's reply stated that "it would not be appropriate for officers of the Home Office to take part."

The Home Office said last night that its official report on the Hull riot, conducted by Mr G. W. Fowler, Chief Inspector of Prisons, was expected to reach the Home Secretary in the next few days and would be published within six weeks.

Mr Platt-Mills said he was disappointed by the Home Office reply. "Many prisoners have been too scared to give evidence to the Fowler inquiry because of possible repercussions for them," he said.

The activities of the recruits if they joined would involve physical fighting, carrying messages and journalistic publications. Miss Burns was told the activities were not legal and involved violence, so she decided to have nothing to do with it. The trial continues today.

Speech difficulties of the deaf school-leavers

By Penny Symon

About half of deaf school-leavers in England and Wales have speech which is either very hard to understand or unintelligible, according to a report published yesterday. The Deaf School-leaver, written to draw attention to their plight, and to mark the beginning of National Deaf Children's Week, makes disturbing reading.

Dr R. Corns, of the Department of Experimental Psychology at Oxford University, whose research is the first to evaluate the communication and reading skills of deaf school-leavers, tested 430 children in England and Wales.

The result showed that school heads considered that almost half of school-leavers have speech which is either very hard to understand or effectively unintelligible, the report says. "When those children with hearing loss greater than 35 decibels were considered separately, the figure rose to 70 per cent. Only 10 per cent had speech which their teachers considered to be fairly

easy to understand or wholly intelligible."

Half of them had lip-reading levels which were no better than normal children who had received no training and their reading ages were often as low as 10 to eight years.

There is little real help with careers for deaf children. Only 23 per cent received any kind of further education, and there was only one piece of evidence in schools of any purposeful and enlightened work on planning their careers.

The report recommends that urgent consideration be given to finding out why the reading, speech and lip-reading attainments of deaf school-leavers are so low.

It says: "Some thought and research must be given to the kind of jobs that require little communication but a high level of intelligence. For instance, laboratory technicians, computer operators, telex operators, and design of various kinds."

The Deaf School-leaver (The National Deaf Children's Society, 31 Chancery Place, London, W1B 4EA, 30p).

Exorcist vicar to move south

The Rev Peter Vincent, who took part in 1974 in an exorcism in his church in Cewker, Wiltshire, which was followed by the death of Mrs Christine Taylor, is to move south.

Within hours of the exorcism Mr Michael Taylor had killed his wife. He was sent to Broadmoor.

Police aim to buy airport hotel

Scotland Yard is negotiating to buy the 110-room Heathrow Ambassador Hotel to convert to a police hostel.

The police see the hotel at Colnbrook, three miles from the airport central area, as being in an ideal position for a section house for unattached officers in the area.

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HOME NEWS

Less waste and better value are themes of Treasury's campaign on public spending

By Peter Hennessy

The Treasury has begun a campaign to reduce Government waste and to increase the value obtained from public expenditure.

A document produced by the Treasury's public services section, *Waste and Value for Money Study*, has been presented to Mr. Barnett, Chief Secretary to the Treasury and minister with primary responsibility for public expenditure. A copy has been sent to Mr. Hesley, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The appraisal does not include social security transfer payments or funds for nationalized industries. Of an estimated total of £50,000m for public expenditure in 1978-79 (at 1976 survey prices), those account for about £22,000m.

Local authority spending absorbs a further £12,300m, the National Health Service £5,400m and defence £5,400m. The primary target of the Treasury's campaign is the £4,700m spent by the civil departments in Whitehall on goods and services.

The report concludes that for public spending in general, in the absence of the discipline

of market forces, cash limits and the severe squeeze on expenditure totals have proved most successful in securing cost-consciousness.

Although slightly embarrassed by the underpinning of departmental budgets, which its new system of financial control produced last year, the Treasury has concluded that it enables the macro and micro economic objectives of the Government to march hand in hand.

The Treasury's close scrutiny of all new projects involving expenditure is judged to be a vital weapon in the drive for economy. Policy reviews, both the formal exercises of the programme analysis and review system and the less cumbersome appraisals now favoured by the Treasury, are a further element in the reduction of waste singled out by the report.

The critical body for the execution of all the elements is the public expenditure survey committee, an inter-departmental group of civil servants of which Mr. John Anson, a Treasury deputy secretary, is chairman.

Also regarded as indispensable to the waste enterprise is the continued determination of ministers to keep to agreed spending levels, and in particular to a high degree of self-discipline in the use of the contingency reserve.

The Treasury will encourage the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee and the Select Committee on Expenditure to undertake value for money investigations on behalf of Parliament. In particular, the Treasury would welcome an extension of the work carried out by the Exchequer and Audit Department on behalf of the Public Accounts Committee.

The Government is expected to seek the assistance of the Public Accounts Committee and the Select Committee on Expenditure in furthering its efficiency and economy aims.

The Treasury's value for money project arose from a self-examination begun last autumn by the public services section. Having achieved its task of controlling overall spending levels, its officials decided that a further dimension was necessary.

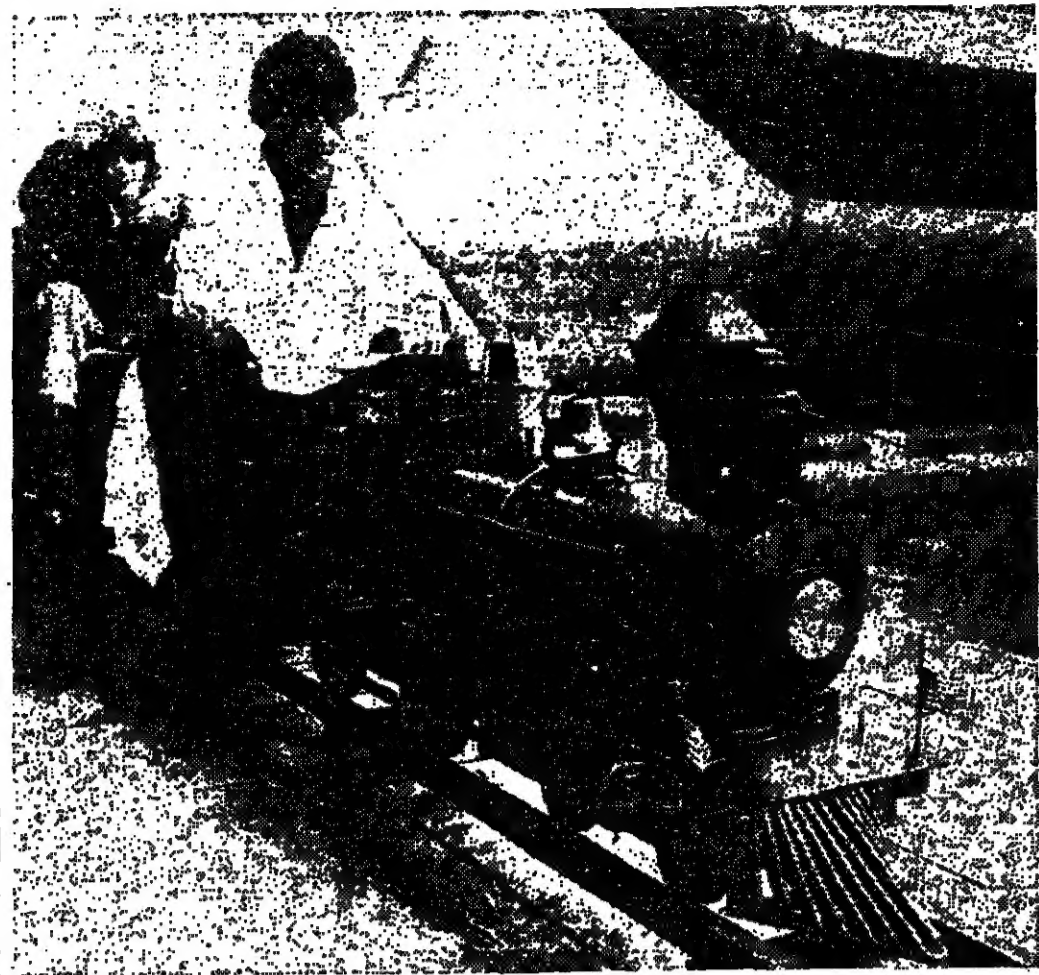
Clubs' open house plan to beat rowdies

Scotland's two biggest football clubs are to take part in an experiment on Sunday in an attempt to combat football hooliganism and bring back the crowds. The Glasgow grounds of Rangers and Celtic will be opened for "a family day" at which young enthusiasts and their parents will come to meet first-team members and watch various events.

It numbers permit, spectators will be allowed to see training facilities, dressing rooms and trophy rooms.

The experiment was announced in Glasgow yesterday by Mr. McKelhone, Under-Secretary of State at the Scottish Office with responsibility for sport, who is chairman of the working party on crowd behaviour at football matches in Scotland. He said the working party's report would be available before the start of the next football season.

The recommendations would contain the strongest measures yet to beat hooliganism and the recommendations would be both punitive and educational. On Sunday Glasgow Rangers will play against a youth club team and Celtic will meet a schoolboy side.



Railway history: A replica of an early American "Puffing Billy" stealing some of the limelight from the prototype of the Advanced Passenger Train at the National Railway Museum, York.

The anthracite-powered model, built five years ago by boys of Leeds Grammar School, gives children rides to raise money for the Railway Orphanage at Derby.

In brief

Football match bus cuts

Ten bus services in west London are likely to be curtailed tomorrow between 6 pm and 10 pm because crews have said they will not operate buses near the Shepherd's Bush ground where Queen's Park Rangers Football club are playing Manchester United.

As a result no buses will run on the following sections of route:

7 (Ladbroke Grove-Acton); 12 (Notting Hill Gate-North Acton); 23 (Hammermith-East Acton); 28 (Notting Hill Gate-Acton Green); 105 (Perivale-Shepherd's Bush); 121 (Hammermith-Acton Green); 207 (Acton Vale-Shepherd's Bush); 226 (Hammermith-Harleford); 256 (Acton Vale-Hammermith); 285 (Hammermith-Ladbroke Grove).

Father cut lock off girl's hair

Laurence Stokes, aged 37, who, "driven by love for his children", cut off a lock of his daughter's hair, was granted a two-year conditional discharge by magistrates at Solihull, West Midlands, yesterday on a charge of assaulting her.

Mr. Stokes, a taxi driver, of Auckland Drive, Chelmsley Wood, Birmingham, who was estranged from his wife, had been remanded for a month for probation reports.

Stowaways back

Two boys who vanished from their homes in Kirkcaldy, Scotland, Greater Manchester, a week ago and were later found by magistrates at Solihull, West Midlands, arrived back in England from Hamburg yesterday.

A push for charity

More than a hundred busmen in Northampton working in relays pushed a single-deck bus for 28 hours around Billing quadrangle at the weekend in aid of a kidney machine.

Hang glider record

Mr. Mark Southall, aged 29, claimed a British cross-country hang glider record yesterday after a 12-mile glide to Abergavenny, South Wales. The previous record was seven miles.

Satellites challenged by new cable-laying ship

From Pearce Wright
Science Editor, Immingham

The notion that submarine telecommunication cables have been made obsolete by the space satellite was demolished at Immingham, Humberside, yesterday when Princess Alexander named Cable Venture, a new ship which can lay telephone circuits between countries more readily than the same provision can be made by a space relay station.

Nevertheless the vessel, which was bought for £3m by Cable and Wireless for the world's largest cable-laying

fleet, carries a satellite communications system for very accurate navigation. On voyages of 2,000 miles or more the vessel can lay or locate a cable within one ship's length by using the satellite navigation aid.

The ship, which is a modernization of the Neptune cable vessel, has been designed for the first time to lay a complete transatlantic cable in one operation.

The new generation of submarine cables for which this vessel has been designed will take 15,000 circuits, or about double all communication links that exist across the Atlantic.

Football hooliganism fines useless, magistrate says

Mr. Kenneth Harrington, presiding at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday, said that proposed heavy fines for football hooligans were useless. He sent two Chelsea supporters to a detention centre for three months.

"It seems to me that fines of £1,000 will be completely useless because they obviously cannot pay them," Mr. Harrington said. "The only answer to this sort of football hooliganism is attendance centre or imprisonment."

He added: "One has simply got to be tough to protect

others and to make it possible for people to go to matches."

Anthony Austin, aged 17, a labourer, of Mill Street, Eltham, admitted threatening behaviour during the Chelsea and Nottingham Forest match at Stamford Bridge on Saturday, and Stephen Nicholson, aged 17, a train driver's assistant, of Falmouth Road, Lower Whitley, Reading, admitted using insulting words.

Glynis Payne, aged 19, an apprentice stone mason, of Northborough Road, Norbury, London, admitted threatening behaviour and was ordered to do 12 hours at an attendance centre on Saturday afternoons.

824 doctors consider going abroad

By John Roper
Health Services Correspondent

Since the free movement of doctors within the European Economic Community was announced last December the General Medical Council has received 824 inquiries from British graduates and 402 from Continental doctors.

The council has issued 91 specialist certificates, indicating firm decisions to take posts in other EEC countries, to British applicants.

Because of controversy over the necessary for doctors from other Community countries to

have the "necessary" knowledge of English to practise here, the GMC is awaiting the Order in Council giving full implementation to the EEC medical directives before registering any applicants.

Registration of Continental doctors wishing to work in Britain will begin the day after the Order in Council is signed. That, I understand, may not be until the end of May.

Continental doctors whose fluency in English is accepted will qualify for full registration immediately. The GMC is expected to decide next month

on acceptable standards of English.

Doctors who do not meet the requirements will be registered for six months only, and hospital authorities will be told why a link has been placed on the registration. Language tests will be held monthly at several centres.

Mr. Robert Kilroy-Silk, Labour MP for Ormskirk, is campaigning to stop the implementation of the EEC directive. The Government, he says, has been timid in agreeing to register doctors even if they cannot speak English.

Retirement haven too often becomes trap for the elderly

It is not surprising that so many people, once they have collected their gold watches and pension cards, retire to Ilfracombe on the north Devon coast. It is warm, pleasant, with relatively cheap houses. So in the streets you can see plenty of white heads, walking sticks and cane with "disabled" stickers.

A third of Ilfracombe's 10,000 people are pensioners, living out the retirement they planned and saved for in the greying surroundings of their former homes in the Midlands, the North and London.

Some are happy enough: the Ilfracombe they first saw as honeymooners and holiday-makers really is the place in the sun they dreamt of. But for others the ticket to Ilfracombe was a ticket to unhappiness.

What often happens is that husbands die within a year or two of retirement and wives are left without the partners who were also chauffeurs. They are stranded, far from family, friends and roots, trapped by failing health, loneliness and the factor they overlooked before they moved, the steep hills of Ilfracombe, which often prove too much for old legs.

Like many seaside towns with large retired populations, Ilfracombe has its difficulties. There is greater pressure on social and health services. It is true that some resorts on the South Coast of England have larger proportions of old people than Ilfracombe, but they are flatter, more compact, better served by public transport and less remote. They tend, too, to have developed gradually and over a long period as retirement centres.

A recent survey among elderly people in Ilfracombe, conducted by the North Devon Community Action group, noted: "Health and social services are extended to the limit in trying to meet the needs of the elderly."

"The disadvantage of living in such a hilly town when one is over 65 must outweigh the advantage of a view. But old people continue to retire here in large numbers, and some housing estates contain a high proportion of elderly people many of whom are virtually prisoners in their own homes because of their inability to climb hills."

The action group says there have been grumbles from some hoteliers that such a report does Ilfracombe no good. But Mr. Derrick Hancock, a county councillor who is chairman of the social services committee for the area, said: "We are not talking people they should come here. Ilfracombe's attractions are obvious. But we want to impress on people that they should think carefully before moving."

* Seaside retirement may

Regional report

Trevor Fishlock
Ilfracombe

seem ideal, but in Ilfracombe, when a husband dies, a widow is often left isolated on a hillside."

Dr. Anthony Bray, a GP at the local health centre, said: "Many retired people first saw Ilfracombe through the rose-tinted spectacles of holiday. They did not think about the geography and the relative isolation of the town."

"We have here a large number of widows who are strangers, and in our surgery we see many patients suffering from anxiety and depression, and other complaints that often spring from loneliness and isolation."

"I think more attention should be given to educating and advising people about retirement, especially in industrial areas where seaside retirement looks so attractive. The most important advice is that people should not cut themselves off from friends and relatives without good reason."

The new bungalow estates, where many of Ilfracombe's retired people live, are pleasant and quiet. A two-bedroom bungalow can still be bought for less than £10,000, and many pensioners are clearly happy with their lot. Some who cannot get about easily have friends, neighbours and social workers calling on them fairly frequently.

But others, disabled and alone, regret their move to Ilfracombe. They are desperately lonely and long for the visits of social workers and home helps. The survey by Community Action noted that of 585 people interviewed, 374 see a friend or relative every day, but 21 see someone less than once a month.

The view of doctors, social workers and the Community Action group is that a day centre for retired people is urgently needed to supplement the clubs run by churches and voluntary groups. "The centre would have to be served by a mini-bus. There is also a call for expansion of the meals-on-wheels and home help services. Essentially, the measures recommended would mitigate the loneliness and isolation of old people on Ilfracombe's hills. A day centre might cost £40,000, and it would be difficult to find the money for it in times of financial stringency. But to doctors and social workers it would be an investment, a money-saving preventive medicine that would improve morale and reduce the illnesses that derive from loneliness."

British Airways broke rabies law

Fifteen mice intended for a university research laboratory cost British Airways a £400 fine, with £50 costs, at Uxbridge Magistrates' Court, Middlesex, yesterday.

The airline admitted breaking the rabies law by landing the live mice at Heathrow airport, London, without a licence last September on a flight from the United States.

Four years for arson attempt

Thomas McCue, aged 22, an assistant manager, who was said to have tried to set fire to his hotel, the Great Red Lion, at St Albans, Hertfordshire, was sentenced at St Albans Crown Court yesterday, to four years' imprisonment. Mr. McCue, of Barnfield Road, St Albans, had been convicted at an earlier hearing of attempted arson.

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WEST EUROPE

Voters in Belgium choose middle political course and give Mr Tindemans another chance

From David Cross
Brussels, April 18

Mr Tindemans, the outgoing Belgian Prime Minister, today appeared set to head a new coalition Government after substantial gains by his centre-right party, in yesterday's general election.

The Social Christian Party, whose main campaign slogan was "Tindemans more than ever", was particularly successful in Flanders, where it has been traditionally the most popular party. It also held its ground well in Belgium's two other main regions, French-speaking Wallonia and Brussels.

With a handful of results still to come, the main opposition party, the Socialists, registered modest gains in some industrial parts of Wallonia, and held their ground in Flanders, but suffered losses in the Brussels area. The principal victors in the capital were once again the French language federalist party, the Front Démocratique des Francophones, which campaigns for improved rights for the predominantly French-speaking population in Brussels.

The main loser in the election, the eleventh since the end of the Second World War, was the small French-language federalist party in Wallonia, the Rassemblement Wallon. The sharp decline in its popularity had been expected after a split in its ranks last year. Conservative members of the party defected to join forces with the French-speaking wing of the Liberal Party which, as a result, also registered gains.

The Rassemblement Wallon was the smallest party in the outgoing three-party coalition, which also included the



Mr Tindemans: new coalition?

Liberals. It brought about yesterday's election by refusing to support its coalition partners in a budget vote last month.

The Flemish federalist party, the Volksunie, also suffered a setback, together with the Flemish wing of the Liberal Party. The Communists held their ground in Wallonia, but a host of other smaller parties, including environmental and feminist groups, made a particularly poor showing.

Most political commentators see the result as a vote of confidence in the way Mr Tindemans has been running the country, in spite of some unpopular economic measures.

A few weeks ago the Government increased value-added taxes on a whole range of products, including tobacco, petrol, alcohol and hotel and restaurant charges. The trade unions were also irritated by the Government's failure to

reduce unemployment, which now stands at a record 9 per cent.

The largescale defections from the federalist parties, particularly in Wallonia are interpreted generally as a sign of the general public's impatience with fringe groups. Although public opinion is certainly in favour of greater devolution to the country's two main linguistic groups, it is more likely to be achieved by the big traditional parties than by the less influential federalist groups.

Mr Tindemans has been careful not to draw too many conclusions from the results so as not to jeopardize the inevitably delicate negotiations that will lead to the formation of a new government. He told journalists, however, that he would be happy to undertake the task of piecing together a new coalition if the opportunity presented itself.

Theoretically, the Social Christians and the Liberals could continue to govern, as they now have a small majority of seats in the lower House. The general expectation is, however, that Mr Tindemans will seek to form a grand coalition with the Socialists to minimize opposition from the trade unions over any future austerity measures.

Provisional results for the Chamber of Deputies, compared with the position before the election were:

Social Christians	80 (72)
Socialists	59 (59)
Liberals	54 (54)
Volksunie	30 (22)
Front Démocratique	10 (8)
Rassemblement Wallon	5 (10)
Communists	4 (4)
Total	212

Last-ditch move to halt Spanish Communists

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, April 18

The conservative popular alliance, led by Señor Manuel Fraga Iribarne, a former Interior Minister, made a last-ditch effort today to keep the Spanish Communist Party from taking part in the coming election. It submitted a request from more than 100 members of the outgoing Cortes for a plebiscite to discuss the recent legalization of the Communists.

By law the Cortes is obliged to meet in plenary session at least four times in the life of each Parliament and whenever the president calls such a session "either on his own initiative or at the petition of 100 members".

The petition—delivered less than a week after Spain's general election—was a clear warning to the Government in writing that they consider the legalization of the Communists "repulsive"—but the Government in the position of having to defend the anti-communist Franco against those still loyal to the dictator's system.

Coinciding with the presentation of the petition in the Cortes by 114 members, the official state bulletin today published the text of the promised royal decree which sets Spain's first democratic election for 41 years for June 15.

Members of the Cabinet, director-general at the various ministries, and a number of other senior officials must resign within the next eight days to be eligible to stand.

According to the terms of a royal decree published last month, the campaign does not begin until three weeks before the date chosen for the poll. But already candidates are barnstorming the country, many parties have published their election lists, and countless posters, pasted everywhere, call for votes for many of the nearly 200 legally recognized parties and some of those which are still illegal.

The law also provides that the campaign must end by midnight on June 13, allowing voters a day to make up their minds without the din of publicity.

The last democratic general election was in February, 1936.

Danish Premier appeals for printing peace

From Our Correspondent
Copenhagen, April 18

Mr Anker Jørgensen, the Danish Prime Minister, today urged the management and the dismissed printing staff of the *Bertelske Tidende* to make an energetic effort to allow the newspaper to resume publication. It has not appeared since January 30 and the dismissal of the staff is practically all Danish newspapers.

After meeting both sides separately Mr Jørgensen said he had discerned a will to solve their differences. Some solution should be possible in the next day or two.



A huge tower building nearing completion in Lyons. At 575 feet, almost the same height as the Post Office tower in London, it will house an hotel and a bank.

M Marchais drops party objection to EEC poll

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, April 18

Support for the passing by the National Assembly of the Bill on direct elections to the European Parliament has come from the unexpected quarter. M. Georges Marchais, the secretary general of the Communist Party, said in a broadcast last night that his party "might contemplate" voting for the Bill on condition that it included "solidarity and living" underlining that the European Parliament did not exceed its present competence.

This concession, however tentative, is a spectacular adjustment in the party's attitude. The prospect of a split with the Socialist allies, who favour direct elections and will vote for the Bill, provided the terms are right, has undoubtedly played a part in the evolution of the Communist thinking on this issue. Until now, the Communists had been unconditionally opposed to the elections, saying that they would undermine national sovereignty and independence.

The increasing prospects of the left coming to power, and the need for a left-wing government to deal with the problems of France in the Community, must have also affected the party's thinking on Europe.

The Gaullists, on the other hand, under pressure from their disaffected faction led by M. Michel Debré, have stiffened their line on direct elections. M. Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist leader, has recently said the Anglo-American Press Association that his movement will not split on the issue.

The Gaullists insist, together with the Communists, that the powers of the European Parliament should be limited strictly to those laid down in the Rome treaty. They want guarantees that direct elections will be held at the same time in all countries of the Community; that there is no regional voting system, and that the conditions for convening the European Parliament are clearly laid down.

M. Marchais, for his part, emphasized today that the voting system for elections to the European Parliament, whether proportional or otherwise, was no problem for the Communist Party. What the party utterly rejected was the possibility that the European Parliament might confer upon itself "powers and prerogatives in complete contradiction to the Rome treaty".

He reproached President Giscard d'Estaing with quoting partially the final declaration of the Paris summit of December 1974 which stipulated that "the competence of the Assembly will be extended, notably in the legislative process of the Communities".

M. Pierre Maurois, the deputy leader of the Socialist Party, welcomed the easing of the Communist stand. He emphasized that his party was no more anxious than the Communists to see the European Parliament turn into a "sovereign constituent assembly" whose ambition would be to set up a superstate on the ruins of our nations.

This suggests that the consequence of the Communist move will be to persuade the Gaullists to insist on the same conditions for support of the Bill in order to consolidate the image of the unity of the left, in the face of the disagreement between the parties of the Government Majority.

Woman ex-minister was to be held to ransom

Stockholm, April 18.—Mr Carl Persson, head of the Swedish national police, disclosed new details today of a plan to kidnap a former woman Cabinet minister and hold her for ransom in an alleged terrorist plot.

The plan to kidnap the former Minister of Immigration, Mrs Anna-Greta Leijon, was found in a note pad seized in a flat here occupied by Herr Norbert Krücher, the West German suspected leader of the plot. Mr Persson said at a press conference.

The plan included demands that eight unidentified prisoners be released, a large ransom paid and the terrorists freed from prison. Mr Persson added.

Herr Krücher and another West German alleged terrorist, Herr Manfred Adenot, were extradited to West Germany on April 3, two days after they and more than 20 other foreigners and Swedes were arrested in various parts of Sweden.

Four other people were expelled for alleged involvement in the plot on Saturday. Two Mexican men and a Chilean woman were flown to Cuba and a Briton was flown to England where he was released without charges after an hour's interrogation at Heathrow airport.

A Greek woman and a Colombian man are still in jail awaiting a Cabinet decision on a formal demand from the National Police Board that they be expelled.

Mr Persson said he refused to identify them.

A young Swedish girl was charged last week with receiving stolen goods and faces other secret charges. A prosecutor demanded that eight other Swedes be arraigned on unrelated charges today.

Mr Persson called the press conference today to counter growing protests here against the last expulsions. Groups opposing the measure had urged the authorities to either make public all evidence against the Latin Americans and the Briton or let them face trial before a possible expulsion.—AP.

Strikers expelled from car plant by riot police

Paris, April 18.—Riot police today expelled striking workers from the General Motors components factory at Gennevilliers, north of Paris, which they have occupied for more than two weeks.

The plant, which supplies electrical parts for Opel car assembly factories in West Germany and Belgium, and the Bedford lorry factory in Britain, has been paralysed since March 30.

The 3,500 work force walked out then to back claims for higher wages, a shorter working week, better working conditions and longer holidays.

The General Motors management appealed for a return to work.—Reuters.

UN pay scales under investigation

From Our Correspondent
Geneva, April 18

The International Civil Service Commission, a United Nations watchdog body set up by the 1975 General Assembly, has launched an investigation of job descriptions and pay scales of clerical and miscellaneous staff employed by the world organization.

By bringing the lowest net annual remuneration of a junior messenger or assistant gardener, or almost 30,000 Swiss francs (about £6,900), has raised many diplomatic, and hence governmental, eyebrows. But these figures alone are deceptive; the cost of living here is high.

OVERSEAS

Timely US reminder by Mr Jenkins on fuel needs in Europe

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, April 18

Europe's dependence on fuel supplies from overseas was being emphasized to President Carter today by Mr Roy Jenkins, president of the EEC Commission.

The main purpose of Mr Jenkins's visit is to prepare the ground for the industrial democracies' summit in London on May 7, which Mr Carter is to attend. But coming only hours before the President was to launch his energy conservation programme in a television broadcast, the moment was timely for Mr Jenkins to put Europe's point of view on the critical subject of fuel.

After Mr Carter's recent renunciation of plutonium and fuel processing in nuclear power, strong intercession by the nuclear allies stopped the President making a public appeal to them to make the same renunciation. One of Mr Jenkins's intentions today was to remind Mr Carter that the

leading European nations should not be made even more dependent on oil imports.

Mr Jenkins, according to his spokesman, also intended discussing the multilateral trade negotiations. And he could hardly avoid a discussion of protectionist demands raining down on Mr Carter for restrictions on cheap imports of a variety of goods.

He was also meeting Mr Robert Strauss, the President's special representative for trade. At a later meeting with Mr Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State, Mr Jenkins was discussing enlargement of the EEC—especially the question of Portugal's accession—and the proposed massive American aid programme.

In talks with Mr Blumenthal, the Treasury Secretary, he was hoping to be reassured that the American economy is recovering as well as the Administration claimed last week.

Mr Jenkins is also to visit Chicago and New York before returning to Europe on Friday.

American budget course for visiting MPs

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, April 18

It is time to find out why \$10,000 a year gets spent, and then to try to spend it, it is among the first American lessons today for visiting British MPs.

Members of the Commons general subcommittee of the committee on expenditure are here for a week to see how the American Executive and Congress handle the budget, and how they plan to reorganize the federal bureaucracy.

The \$10,000 by which American expenditure has fallen short of budgeted amounts this year is one of the big mysteries being confronted at the Office of Management and Budget. Spending less than budgeted amounts is a first in the history of the budget, which happened last year and President Ford's men said it retarded recovery and helped lose them the election.

The gap between budget and spending has continued this

year and although it might end up reducing the deficit it also reduces the intended stimulus to the economy. President Carter's staff want to identify the gap and then close it during the rest of the year, providing an unexpected stimulus.

The MPs, led by Mr Michael Bess (Northampton, Wes, Labour) are to meet economists outside government as well as in it. This includes "think tanks" like the Brookings Institution, and the American Enterprise Institute.

Because the subcommittee's duties extend to economic prediction, they are to meet the staff of the President's Council of Economic Advisers, the Treasury, and the Federal Reserve Bank. They will also meet experts from the full range of congressional bodies, including the new congressional budget office, the House of Representatives budget committee, the joint economic committee and the General Accounting Office.

Russian trade unionists refused American visas

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, April 18

The State Department has refused to give visas to three members of the Soviet Dockers' Union who had been invited to attend the annual convention of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU).

The union, which represents the dockers of the American West coast, is not affiliated to the American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), whose strongly anti-communist leader, Mr George Meany, has succeeded in keeping Soviet trade unionists out of the country for decades.

This will be the last annual convention of the ILWU under the presidency of Mr Harry Bridges, who founded the union 40 years ago. He was born in Australia and is probably the most left-wing of important American union leaders.

Foreign communists are not allowed into the United States without special waivers to the law. Most foreign communists get the waivers easily enough, but trade union leaders never do.

British art centre opens in New Haven today

From Peter Strafford
New York, April 18

The Yale Centre for British Art, an important collection of paintings, prints, drawings, water colours and rare books, is to open in New Haven, Connecticut, tomorrow after years of preparation. It is thought to be the largest collection of its kind outside Britain.

The centre is the creation of Mr Paul Mellon, of the banking family. His view is that British art is often insufficiently appreciated. His intention is to arouse interest in it through the setting up of this lavishly appointed centre, which will also promote research and studies.

The building itself is a modern, functional design by Lewis Kahn, one of the leading American architects of recent years, who died not long ago. The collection includes works by most of the best-known British painters—including Hogarth, Constable, Turner and Stubbs—as well as works by others painted in England, including Van Dyck, Rubens and Canaletto.

There are altogether some 1,800 paintings, 5,000 prints, 7,000 drawings and water colours and 20,000 books.

The centre, and the Kahn building, have been warmly praised by critics. Mr John Russell wrote in *The New York Times* that it was "the finest collection of British art that ever was formed by a private individual".

It would change Americans' views of British art, he said. If you think that British art is a matter of being glared at by full-length portraits of other people's ancestors, this is the place to undeceive yourself.

Mr Douglas Davis wrote in *Newsweek*: "A curious glance reveals that one has always thought about British art—that it is essentially good-natured, settled in its view of life and infectiously genteel...."

"But look closer: there is more to both the paintings and the building than first meets the eye. Here and there are signs of the demonic energy that created English Romanticism—in the fantastic visions of William Blake; the late, swirling abstractions of Turner; and the nightmare images of Henry Fuseli. Most striking of all are two huge, powerful canvases by the surprising George Stubbs."

Airport blamed for near miss

Johannesburg, April 18.—Air traffic control at Johannesburg airport was officially blamed today for a near miss last Friday in which a Boeing of the Australian airline Qantas narrowly escaped colliding with a South African airliner.

Officials at the airport have formally apologized to the Australian airline, which was blamed at first for the South African airliner making a landing had to overfly the runway at the last moment.—Agence France-Press.

Catholics want law repealed in South Korea

Seoul, April 18.—A Roman Catholic declaration in South Korea today demanded the repeal of the 1972 Constitution and a 1975 presidential decree, because the two documents are for the benefit of a few in power.

The Catholic declaration was read and applauded at a special Mass attended by about 700 people on the eve of the anniversary of a popular uprising led by students in 1960 which overthrew the autocratic government of the late President Syngman Rhee. The declaration was signed by the National Council of Catholic Priests for the Realization of Justice.

Execution put off in Arizona

Washington, April 18.—The Supreme Court today postponed the execution, due on Wednesday, of Willie Lee Richmond, convicted of murder in Arizona.

The court ordered Arizona officials to keep Mr Richmond without special waivers to the law. Most foreign communists get the waivers easily enough, but trade union leaders never do.

Arizona's death-penalty law.—AP.

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OVERSEAS

India cites two British sources to justify dissolving assemblies

From Kuldip Nayar

Delhi, April 18
Mr. Charan Singh, India's Home Minister, told a press conference here today that the Government was asking the chief ministers of nine states to dissolve their state assemblies and hold fresh elections.

In the affected states—Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal—the Congress Party was routed in the recent parliamentary election.

Mr. Singh said that there was a "climate of uncertainty" in these states which created a sense of diffidence in the administration.

The southern states of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have been left out because the Janata Party, now in power in Delhi, was defeated there. However, Tamil Nadu, which is under federal rule, will go to the polls like the other state assemblies.

Mr. Singh quoted two nineteenth-century British constitutional authorities to support the dissolution of state assemblies. The first, Lord Halsbury, said that where there was "fair reason to suppose that the opinion of the House is not the opinion of the people," an appeal from the legal to the political overrule would be obligatory. Lord Halsbury, he added, had pointed out that "even where

the ministry still retains the confidence of the House of Commons, but the Crown has reason to believe that the House no longer represents the sense of the electorate, the dissolution of the ministry or the dissolution of the Parliament would be constitutional."

Sources close to the Election Commission say that the polls will be held either at the end of June or at the beginning of July. The Home Minister also announced the names of the men who are to head the inquiry commissions into the activities of Mr. Gandhi's Government.

Mr. C. S. Chatterjee, the former Chief Justice of India, is to investigate "the excesses, malpractices and abuse of authority" during the emergency. According to his brief, he will pinpoint the responsibility and assess the complicity of even "the highest political authority."

Mr. H. R. Khanna, a former Supreme Court judge, will inquire into the affairs of Maruti, the firm established by Mr. Sanjay Gandhi. Mrs. Gandhi's son, six years ago to manufacture a low-price people's car. The firm later branched out into other fields.

Pakistan opposition urges President to intervene

From Richard Wigg

Lahore, April 18

The opposition National Alliance today deepened Pakistan's political crisis by calling directly on President Chaudhry to take a hand in ending the deadlock.

The Opposition also rejected a compromise package offered by Mr. Bhutto, the Prime Minister, over the weekend.

After a meeting here of the Alliance's general council, Opposition leaders invoked what they called "implied residual powers" in urging the President to set up some kind of interim caretaker administration to hold fresh national elections after the Prime Minister had resigned.

The call, far from offering a way out, seemed to be taking matters into a constitutional cloud cuckoo land. Not only did Mr. Bhutto refuse to resign yesterday, citing the constitution which appears to rule out presidential initiatives, but President Chaudhry, who is a sick man, has already publicly rejected taking direct measures himself to resolve the crisis.

This he did earlier this month in a letter to the Opposition in which he backed the Prime Minister, in whose shadow he has always stood. His advice to the Opposition was to respond to Mr. Bhutto's offer to resolve the disputed March 7 general election results.

Asked by baffled foreign correspondents to explain how he thought the President could act, Mr. Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, the acting chairman of the Opposition, emphasized it

was "the people" who were now demanding appropriate action. "I expect the President will rise to the occasion," he added.

Mr. Bhutto's concessions to the Islamic orthodoxy of the Opposition, such as prohibition of alcohol, were contemptuously rejected today as attempts to "divert the attention of the people from the main issue." This, it was clearly stated today, was to bring down Mr. Bhutto.

Our Rawalpindi Correspondent writes: Wine and drink shops were closed down and sealed all over Pakistan after Mr. Bhutto announced his intention last night of introducing prohibition on religious grounds. Night clubs were also closed and floor shows stopped.

Leading hotels and clubs served nothing stronger than sherbet and squashes to their guests. After the announcement that gambling of all kinds would be prohibited, Pakistan's best known racing club in Karachi called a meeting "to wind up business."

Embassy protest: Twenty Pakistani occupied their embassy in London for several hours last night in protest against Mr. Bhutto's policies, blocking themselves in the ambassador's office. Police were called but the protesters eventually agreed to leave after handing a petition to an embassy official.

Moscow, April 18.—Mr. Ayaz Amir, a second secretary at Pakistan's embassy here, has submitted his resignation in protest over policies pursued by Mr. Bhutto's Government, it was learnt today. His protest comes after similar action by Pakistan's ambassadors in Madrid and Athens.—Reuter.

An apocalyptic message seen at New York's Kennedy airport demonstration yesterday.

Court ban mutes anti-Concorde protest

From Our Own Correspondent

New York, April 18

Airport officials were congratulating themselves today that yesterday's demonstration at New York's Kennedy airport against landing rights for Concorde had not caused more disruption.

There were some big traffic jams, and some passengers missed flights, but nothing worse resulted from the protests by local residents.

Disruption might have been worse if a local judge had not forbidden the demonstration, which deterred some would-be participants, and if several anti-Concorde groups had not decided against taking part for

fear of antagonizing airport users.

The organizers said afterwards they had shown they could cause serious trouble if they wanted.

The next round in the Concorde struggle will be next week, when the case brought by British Airways and Air France against the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey comes to a hearing.

Mrs Thatcher contrasts China with Hongkong

From Our Correspondent

Hongkong, April 18

Mrs Thatcher, the Conservative Party leader, said today that she thought living standards in Hongkong were well above those she had seen earlier in China, but emphasized that she did not believe in heavy judgements based on short visits.

Asked about her impressions of China she said: "It is not our job to judge. It is an alien political creed to us." Mrs Thatcher would give no details of her recent talks with Chairman Hua Guofeng and other Chinese leaders, but said they had not discussed the future of Hongkong.

Asked about capital punishment in Hongkong, she said that if she became Prime Minister she would judge each case on its merits in advising the Queen. Lord Denning recently criticized the anomalous situation in which capital punishment was abolished in Hongkong but the death sentence is always commuted.

On social and electoral reform in Hongkong, Mrs Thatcher said that should be examined by the residents, an implicit criticism of British MPs who make sweeping statements about the colony after short visits.

Leading article, page 15

'Breaches of discipline' at Zagreb airport

Zagreb, April 18.—Yugoslav investigators into the air crash last September in which 176 people died said today there had been breaches of discipline at Zagreb airport at the time of the disaster.

Mr. Sava Zivkovic, a member of the official commission which investigated the collision between a British Airways Trident and a Yugoslav DCS, told a court here: "The crash would not have occurred had all the rules been respected."

He was giving evidence at the trial of eight Zagreb ground controllers accused of causing the collision. Mr. Zivkovic and the

commission's president, Mr. Tomaz Samardic, also gave evidence about a controller working longer hours than officially prescribed, which was not properly adjusted and a mistake in Yugoslav flight control regulations.

Mr. Samardic said the chief accused, Gradimir Tasic, was scheduled to work 50 hours in the week of the crash, eight hours more than the number prescribed by regulations. He agreed that there was "a slight shortage" in the number of controllers at Zagreb, and that the radar at the airport was not properly adjusted.—Reuter.

Moves towards partition by Lebanese Christians

From Robert Fisk

Hama, northern Lebanon

April 18
Pierre Gemayel International Airport has been blasted and cut through the rock and small forests below the mountain snow line 10 miles south of Tripoli. It is the inspiration of Bashir Gemayel, the son of the Lebanese Christian Phalangist leader, and to reach it you have to turn right off the coast road into the foothills of the Lebanon.

Because it is a very political, very private enterprise you expect to see a muddy airstrip just capable of taking a light aircraft. But before you reach the old Greek Orthodox church at Hama, you catch sight of the runway through the trees. It is more than a mile in length and 17 metres wide. Steamrollers and caterpillar construction vehicles are manoeuvring over its surface.

There is a half-completed modern terminal building and a partially finished airstrip. Paved to the terminal wall are a series of professional diagrams and plans, covered in gradations, final approach speeds and take-off limits.

The Christian Lebanese do not do things by halves. The Phalangists have poured almost £2m into this. Sound-like project that Mr. Philippe Massad, the acting construction manager and former Phalangist fighter who shows visitors around, claims that the runway should be fully asphalted and operational by the end of June.

The mountain airport high above the sea is, of course, more a political act than a means of employment for the civil war veterans who have been turned into construction workers.

It is a sign that the Christians who fought—and nearly lost—the Lebanese war regard the partition of their country as a possibility if not a desirable political end. It is "an insurance policy," according to Mr. Massad, who recalls that Beirut's official airport was in leftist hands during the war when the Christians had to

rely on the small port of Jounieh for supplies and military equipment.

Every three weeks or so, a Syrian military patrol passes by to take a look at the airport. The Syrians have every reason to be interested in its progress, they assure the Phalangists, they are just paying a social call. The Damascus Government regards any move towards the partition of Lebanon as a violation that would set dangerous precedents in the Arab world, not least in Syria itself.

Their greatest security so far arises from the inability of the old Christian barons of the Lebanese right wing to decide on the kind of Lebanon they want to live in and rule.

All of them want some form of autonomy for the Christian Maronites living between Beirut and Tripoli. Mr. Pierre Gemayel and Mr. Camille Chamoun have both talked in a fashionable way about the need for unity through recognition of cultural and religious differences.

This has naturally frightened the Syrians, but when the Lebanese front, the umbrella organization of the Gemayel Phalangists and the Chamounist National Liberal Party, met earlier this year to discuss their ideas, they disagreed.

The aging Mr. Chamoun—he is 78—wanted a new constitution for Lebanon. The Gemayel militia, the political and military extremists whom Mr. Chamoun's warrior sons led to bloody victory at Tel al-Zaatar last year, have already drawn up a draft constitution which would give Christians and Muslims almost complete independence, with a largely powerless central Government to keep up the appearance of Lebanese unity.

They even have a coloured map showing the frontiers of the new Christian statelet, the border snakes out of Eastern Beirut and wanders in a gerrymandering sort of way through Mount Lebanon, meeting the sea again near Tripoli.

The less sanguine Mr. Pierre Gemayel prefers to talk about

"Regionalization" and thinks in terms of a confederation with a more powerful executive that would not use the present constitutional provision for a Christian Maronite president and a Muslim prime minister.

He suggests that greater autonomy should be used as a threat only if the Christians presence in Lebanon—upon which the Christians blame all their ills—is not reduced.

Unfortunately for Mr. Gemayel, his son Bashir leans towards the Christianist ideal. Lebanese Muslims generally agree that they want a reunified country. This is ostensibly for patriotic reasons but in reality they are frightened that if Lebanon were divided the Christians would keep the richest land and take with them the heart of the nation's economy.

They refuse indignantly to believe that the Christians want partition only as a last resort. If that is so, they ask, why have the Christians gone to the lengths of writing a new constitution? Why have they been installing new communications and Telex lines into the wartime Christian capital of Jounieh? Why are they operating their own Phalangist radio station? Why have they built their new airport?

There are rumours that in a few months' time President Sarkis's Government in Beirut, anxious that Lebanon remains one country, may try to bring heavily armed control of the Pierre Gemayel International Airport, banking the Phalangists at the same time for improving Lebanon's communications in the aftermath of the war.

The enormous boarding bearing Gemayel's name next to the runway has already been blown down by the wind. But the physical act of partition is not likely to come. Even now, the two communities in Lebanon remain divided and the swathe of ruins through the centre of Beirut is more formidable than any international frontier.

Milizia leader complains to Israelis

From Our Correspondent

Tel Aviv, April 18

Major Haddad, commander of the Christian Milizia in southern Lebanon, complained to Israel today that the Lebanese Government was obstructing the International Red Cross from reaching the area beset by Lebanese and Palestinian terrorism.

The accusation was made in an extraordinary document bearing the official seal of the "Lebanese Forces in the South" which was brought to a press conference here by Mr. Francis Rizk, a headmaster who said he was political adviser to the commanding officer.

Major Haddad commands a force estimated by the Israelis at 1,000. Mr. Rizk said the core comprised regular soldiers and militia, and the Lebanese Army unit based in Marj Ayun, but which disintegrated during the civil war.

Major Haddad's forces occupied the predominantly Muslim villages of Al-Kham and Taiba recently, but later lost them to the Palestinians. The officer said the terrorists murdered anyone suspected of having gone to the Israeli border or of cooperating with the Lebanese forces. Refugees had reported rape, murder and looting by terrorists from Libya, Iraq, Sudan and other places.

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Rugby Union

By Peter West

Handlet v. Handlet.

SPORT

Racing

Saros can uphold Dewhurst form at expense of Be My Guest

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent

Sponsored by Ladbrokes, the Blue Riband Stakes is the most valuable race at Epsom today on the first day of their three-day spring meeting. Appropriately it has attracted the best field, even though there are only seven runners. What it has lost in quantity, it certainly makes up for in quality.

The high spot of the race promises to be the clash between Saros, who will be ridden by the champion jockey, Patrick Eddery, and the Irish challenger, Be My Guest, who will be ridden by Lester Piggott. The two principals are trained by Peter Walwyn and Vincent O'Brien, who hold similar positions in England and Ireland respectively. Saros, who has won the race twice before, is a half-brother to the two colts who have won it in the past two years, which is a clear indication that things are looking up at Seven Barrows.

My confidence in Saros stems from the belief that the form of last year's Dewhurst Stakes is still valid. I have seen Saros twice, and he has been seen twice extremely well on two occasions in the past fortnight. He was beaten by The Minstrel in the Dewhurst at Newmarket last October, Saros was palpitably the more backward. Yet he was not remotely disgraced, even though he was beaten by lengths in the end by the horse who is now the ante-post favourite to win the 2,000 Guineas.

By taking a line through Crown Bowler, who finished third in the Dewhurst, four lengths behind Saros, it is possible to argue that my selection ought to have nothing to fear from the Queen's colt, Card Player, who was second. Card Player finished only half a length in front of Crown Bowler on the only occasion they met last year. But it is difficult to know what Be My Guest is capable of. This colt by Northern Dancer is out of What a Treat, who was the best three-year-old filly of her generation in the United States.

Be My Guest was the second of his two races in Ireland last year, and he was beaten by Saros, suggesting that he was anything but the ordinary. All I can add is that Saros has been led to believe that Be My Guest is not O'Brien's best three-year-old and that in the circumstances it will be a particularly poor outlook for the rest of the season from an English point of view if Saros, who may well be the best three-year-old in the world, is to be beaten by a colt who has won a classic in Ribblesdale and who is a half-brother to the two colts who have won it in the past two years, which is a clear indication that things are looking up at Seven Barrows.

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trainer, Ryan Price, "he my Derby horse". With a maiden's allowance it will be interesting to see how Atlantic Bridge handles the last mile and 110 yards of the Derby course, but I doubt whether he is as forward as Saros. The Great Metropolitan Handicap has been won by a hurdler for the past six years, and today's field would certainly look more at home in the National Hunt than in the flat. The last time a flat racing specialist won the Derby was in 1950 when Hickman was successful. He was trained by Barry Hills, who was not without a good chance of ending the "hurdler" dominance by winning it again with Metelino who will be meeting Water Colour on better terms than when he was beaten two lengths by him at Warwick on Easter Monday. That was her first race of the season, and Water Colour was fit from a spell of hurdling.

Versatility is the Peter Easterby byword

By Michael Seely

Peter Easterby continued to show his versatility as a trainer when Mayday became his sixth individual two-year-old winner this season. Mayday beat the odds-on favourite, Tarrina, and the fast finishing Near The Mark in a tight finish for the Sunstar Maiden Stakes at Nottingham yesterday.

On Saturday at Ayr, the Mayday trainer completed a remarkable treble when Sea Pigeon's victory in the Scottish Champion Hurdle capped those of Night Nurse in the Watch Stakes and Never Tell in the Championship itself at Cheltenham. The same afternoon, Easterby's And Newcomb, a trained Mayday, won the Royal Borough of Ayr Memorial Handicap with Mayday and had saddled Friendly Baker to win the first race of the afternoon at Beverley.



Hyver Hill (B. Taylor) wins the Brighton Borough Stakes from Murrumbidgee and Private Line.

should have no difficulty in winning the Brighton Borough Stakes. The Nottinghamshire trainer, Jack Hardy, continued his remarkable record in this type of event when Hyver Hill just got the better of a hard fought battle with Murrumbidgee and Private Line in the Brighton Borough Stakes. Hyver Hill was ridden by the champion jockey, Patrick Eddery, who has now had three successes out of four mounts for Hardy this season. Hyver Hill was a double winner of the Brighton Borough Stakes in 1975 and 1976, and was bought from the Canadian millinery, Garfield, for £100,000.

who slipped and fell when disputing the lead entering the last furlong. Happily, both the gelding and his rider, Ernie Johnson, escaped unhurt.

Earlier, Johnson had given Berkshire its first winner of the day when partnering Siccamus in the Brighton Borough Stakes. Siccamus, who is trained by Peter Cundell, had run well when third in the Solihull at Kempton Park and was another well backed favourite at 13-8, having opened at 3-1.

At Nottingham today, Henry Cecil, whose 113-strong team appears to be running in the can win both divisions of the Oval Maiden Stakes with Bedouin and Falveler, was also unlucky. Bedouin, who is trained by Peter Cundell, was well backed favourite at 13-8, having opened at 3-1.

Miss Brasher outwits Australian opponent

Little Kate Brasher, Britain's 14-year-old tennis player, put her self in line for an extra day's holiday after her easy first round win on the opening day of the tournament sponsored by Robinson's Barley Water at Norwich yesterday. Miss Brasher defeated the Australian, Helen Rice, 6-2, 6-2.

Surviving the draw after her victory, Miss Brasher said: "I am supposed to go home to Surrey and back at school on Thursday, but if I could keep winning I've got to leave of absence to stay here."

Miss Brasher can hardly be optimistic of a prolonged stay in the tournament for future opponents could include Jane Bradley, the Scottish player who beat her last week, or if she survives that, the top-seeded Susan Smyth, who is making her first British appearance of the season.

Miss Brasher, the daughter of Christopher, a 1956 Olympic Games gold medal winner, and Shirley, Britain's top tennis player 20 years ago, certainly made some valuable opponents, a 15-year-old left hander who represents South Australia in State matches.

She won nine games in a row from 1-2 in the opening set and was coasting home when her first serious mistakes cost her service in the fifth game of the second. She was also 0-30 down in the next game before two successive double faults by the Australian put Miss Brasher back on the right track.

The women's singles lost two seeds on the opening day, the American Pamela Bailey, number seven, who lost 2-6, 6-3, 6-3, to Jane Phillips of New Zealand, while the Australian third seed, Kim Ruddell scratched because she is engaged in a tournament in the United States. Miss Ruddell was the player who partnered her sister, Jackie, in a doubles victory in America a week ago just before the Australian girl appeared and died.

Bradley, the British singles champion, who has improved immensely since his first recent tour of America, turned in another workmanlike performance to beat the useful Australian, Timothy Clements, who is expected to come to work for every point and came from behind in the second set.

Yesterday's results at Norwich

Men
FIRST ROUND: P. Brasher (GB) beat R. Rice (AUS) 6-2, 6-2.
SECOND ROUND: P. Brasher (GB) beat R. Rice (AUS) 6-2, 6-2.
THIRD ROUND: P. Brasher (GB) beat R. Rice (AUS) 6-2, 6-2.
FOURTH ROUND: P. Brasher (GB) beat R. Rice (AUS) 6-2, 6-2.
FIFTH ROUND: P. Brasher (GB) beat R. Rice (AUS) 6-2, 6-2.
SIXTH ROUND: P. Brasher (GB) beat R. Rice (AUS) 6-2, 6-2.
SEVENTH ROUND: P. Brasher (GB) beat R. Rice (AUS) 6-2, 6-2.
EIGHTH ROUND: P. Brasher (GB) beat R. Rice (AUS) 6-2, 6-2.
NINTH ROUND: P. Brasher (GB) beat R. Rice (AUS) 6-2, 6-2.
TENTH ROUND: P. Brasher (GB) beat R. Rice (AUS) 6-2, 6-2.

Women
FIRST ROUND: M. Brasher (GB) beat R. Rice (AUS) 6-2, 6-2.
SECOND ROUND: M. Brasher (GB) beat R. Rice (AUS) 6-2, 6-2.
THIRD ROUND: M. Brasher (GB) beat R. Rice (AUS) 6-2, 6-2.
FOURTH ROUND: M. Brasher (GB) beat R. Rice (AUS) 6-2, 6-2.
FIFTH ROUND: M. Brasher (GB) beat R. Rice (AUS) 6-2, 6-2.
SIXTH ROUND: M. Brasher (GB) beat R. Rice (AUS) 6-2, 6-2.
SEVENTH ROUND: M. Brasher (GB) beat R. Rice (AUS) 6-2, 6-2.
EIGHTH ROUND: M. Brasher (GB) beat R. Rice (AUS) 6-2, 6-2.
NINTH ROUND: M. Brasher (GB) beat R. Rice (AUS) 6-2, 6-2.
TENTH ROUND: M. Brasher (GB) beat R. Rice (AUS) 6-2, 6-2.

Decision awaited on Danseuse Etoile

From Desmond Stoneham
French Racing Correspondent

Angel Penna, the trainer of Danseuse Etoile, the second favourite for the 1,000 Guineas, told me today that he would make a final decision as to the filly's participation in the Newmarket race after a gallop at Chantilly on Wednesday. Danseuse Etoile

won her only race, the Prix de Chantilly, at Longchamps on Easter Monday, by three lengths and has since been the subject of much speculation as to her next race.

This afternoon at St-Cloud Penna trained another unraced filly to win the Prix de Chantilly, a half-sister by Caro to such notable performers at Montmartre and Mont Hagen, had four lengths to spare over her nearest rival at the post. Very Charming,

a full sister to Dahlia, finished fifth.

Penna, who is private trainer to Danseuse Etoile, has this season saddled 24 horses to win 11 races.

Jack Cunningham, jnr, whose filly was signed to compete in the 1,000 Guineas, told me today that it would be King of Maccos who would represent the filly in the classic and not Phyllis. Maurice Phillips, the stable jockey, will ride.

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Nottingham programme

2.0 TAYERN HANDICAP (3-y-o: £429: 1m 50yd)	3.0 OLD TRAFFORD STAKES (3-y-o maidens: £764: 5f)
000001 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000001 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000002 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000002 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000003 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000003 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000004 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000004 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000005 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000005 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000006 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000006 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000007 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000007 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000008 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000008 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000009 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000009 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000010 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000010 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5

4.0 VAL STAKES (Div 1: 3-y-o maidens: £822: 11m)	5.0 VAL STAKES (Div 2: 3-y-o maidens: £818: 11m)
000001 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000001 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000002 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000002 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000003 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000003 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000004 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000004 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000005 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000005 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000006 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000006 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000007 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000007 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000008 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000008 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000009 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000009 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000010 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000010 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5

Hannon's mixed fortune

When Firefly beat Soldier Rose in the Town Purse Handicap at Brighton yesterday, he led all the way and won by six lengths.

A combination of Hannon and Peter Madden went close to beating another favourite, Hyver Hill, with Murrumbidgee in the Brighton Borough Stakes. Hyver Hill was ridden by the champion jockey, Patrick Eddery, who has now had three successes out of four mounts for Hardy this season. Hyver Hill was a double winner of the Brighton Borough Stakes in 1975 and 1976, and was bought from the Canadian millinery, Garfield, for £100,000.

challenging Cash Lady, who led all the way and won by six lengths.

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Ten arrested as South Africa go out

Newport Beach, California, April 18.—The United States won their Davis Cup tie 4-1 against South Africa yesterday in a second round tennis tournament here during the weekend. The American team, led by Jimmy Connors, defeated the South African team, led by Frew McMillen, 4-1.

Connors, who won his match 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, was the only American to win a match. The other three Americans lost their matches. The South African team won their matches 4-1.

Nastase forced to retire from tournament

Monterey, April 18.—Luis Nastase, of Romania, tripped over a tennis ball and lost his chance of a second round tennis tournament here during the weekend. The Romanian player, who was the top seed, was forced to retire from the tournament after losing his first round match to a qualifier.

Nastase, who won his match 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, was the only Romanian to win a match. The other three Romanians lost their matches. The South African team won their matches 4-1.

Epsom programme

2.0 CUDDINGTON STAKES (2-y-o: £576: 5f)	3.0 OLD TRAFFORD STAKES (3-y-o maidens: £764: 5f)
000001 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000001 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000002 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000002 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000003 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000003 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000004 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000004 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000005 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000005 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000006 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000006 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000007 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000007 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000008 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000008 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000009 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000009 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000010 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000010 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5

Nottingham selections

2.0 LORRY GIFT. 2.30 ARCTIC TRIBUNE	3.0 RAY ONE. 3.30 DIXIE BELLE. 4.0 ROYAL FRIEND. 4.30 BADJOS. 5.0 PALMER.
000001 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000001 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000002 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000002 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000003 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000003 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000004 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000004 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000005 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000005 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000006 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000006 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000007 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000007 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000008 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000008 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000009 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000009 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000010 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000010 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5

Perth NH programme

2.15 BLACK WATCH HURDLE (Handicap: £379: 2m)	3.15 PERTHSHIRE HURDLE (Handicap: £707: 3m)
000001 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000001 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000002 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000002 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000003 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000003 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000004 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000004 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000005 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000005 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000006 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000006 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000007 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000007 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000008 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000008 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000009 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000009 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000010 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000010 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5

Brighton results

2.15 BLACK WATCH HURDLE (Handicap: £379: 2m)	3.15 PERTHSHIRE HURDLE (Handicap: £707: 3m)
000001 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000001 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000002 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000002 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000003 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000003 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000004 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000004 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000005 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000005 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000006 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000006 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000007 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000007 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000008 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000008 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000009 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000009 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000010 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000010 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5

Nottingham

2.15 BLACK WATCH HURDLE (Handicap: £379: 2m)	3.15 PERTHSHIRE HURDLE (Handicap: £707: 3m)
000001 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000001 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000002 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000002 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000003 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000003 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000004 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000004 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000005 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000005 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000006 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000006 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000007 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000007 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000008 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000008 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000009 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000009 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000010 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000010 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5

Epsom selections

2.0 NIGHT OWL. 2.30 GO LAKER. 3.5 MATILDE. 3.55 SAROS	4.10 BEDFORD LODGE. 4.45 STAR PRINCE.
000001 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000001 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000002 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000002 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000003 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000003 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000004 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000004 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000005 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000005 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000006 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000006 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000007 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000007 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000008 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000008 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000009 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000009 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5
000010 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5	000010 Valley of Diamonds (D. J. Wharton, 9-0) R. Middle 5

Perth selections

2	52-139	Sam Linn (D. J. Richards, 7-11-10)	J. O'Neil
3	52-140	Sam Linn (D. J. Richards, 7-11-10)	J. O'Neil
4	52-234	Mary Back (C. J. Hubback, 11-10-8)	N. Bamber
5	52-235	Flourish (C. J. Hubback, 11-10-8)	C. Brown
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MRS THATCHER'S EASTERN TOUR

Mrs Thatcher's bright in China, Japan and Hong Kong will have brought its surprises. East Asian civilization has a distinctive character for which the long British association with the rest of Asia, where so much of a visible legacy survives, is no preparation at all. East Asia lives in its own world and knows it and cannot conceal it. It is a civilization that has been absorbed, ever since it was "opened up" in the nineteenth century, by its relations with the West.

That is one good reason for understanding it and it is part of the explanation why the eastern wars in which the West has been involved in the last forty years have all been in East Asia—Japan, Korea, Vietnam. An effort is needed to come to terms with these countries; like them or not, international dealings or trade with them calls for understanding. This was the reason for Mrs Thatcher's journey.

In China she was much approved of because of her decided view on the Russians. It is not simply this attitude that has more often recommended Conservative visitors to China than Labour ones. In an era when new relations with Asian countries are being adopted it is natural for a generation of anti-imperialist socialists to feel at home with the ex-colonial territories they feel that they liberated while the pride and detachment of East Asia have rather more appeal to Conservatives.

It was alleged against Mrs Thatcher that she was unnecessarily grumpy in her anti-Soviet demand in China, with the implication that in being so she was currying favour with her hosts. She has answered this charge

herself by insisting that she had said nothing in China that she had not already said many times in Britain. The record is proof of that. She could further argue that however distasteful China's political system might seem, there is no doubt that Russia is the country that has threatened and still threatens British interests in Europe. China is not an ancient enemy, but it is a military threat to this country. Britain's relations with China have consequently been conducted on a friendly basis since this friendship necessarily derived in part from common concern over a common enemy. One need look no farther than India for the operation of a similar common interest, both India and Russia having come closer together as each began to perceive China as an enemy.

That does not mean that the extreme and seemingly unchanging view of an inevitable war that the Chinese attach to their views on Russia have made any more impact on Mrs Thatcher than they did on the late Mr Crosland or any other of the west European leaders who have done their China tour. Still less should the British relationship with China inhibit judgment of a political system which lacks all the political freedoms we value in Britain. No kind of ideological identity follows from Anglo-Chinese friendship, a fact acknowledged as readily by the Chinese in their dealings with all western countries.

Japan is a different matter. The country is more open to free inquiry, it has adopted democratic ways and enjoys all the political freedoms that go with it. Like China's however, Japan's relations with the West

have been dominant in the country's international thinking in the past century and remain unresolved. Japan is meshed into the western world's economic system. For these reasons westerners have not made the same effort to understand Japan as they have done in probing China's mysteries. China is larger and more distant, its civilization more ancient. It offers a vast area of time and space in which the imagination may wander. Added to all that has been what seemed an original revolutionary bloom unfolding just at a time when all the others were beginning to smelt stale or purrid. Fashion has come powerfully to China's aid in inflating a country that seems unattainable to most: whereas Japan's superficial westernization and economic success have diverted rather than elicited the study of the country that is no less necessary.

It is not enough simply to envy the Japanese car production lines that Mrs Thatcher inspected, where workers rarely have to be struck, technical advance is welcomed and overmanning is unknown. The social cohesion and national emotions that lie behind this economic success must be understood by any political visitor who is likely to have to deal with Japan. As with China, though for different reasons, Mrs Thatcher might say of Japan that "it is not that kind of a society". For all that it is a country where minds are free and thoughts are open and uninhibited, where a process of cross-cultural exchange goes on that links Japan and the West. In the coming decades our relations with Japan are bound to be closer and to matter even more than our relations with China.

DIVIDED LOYALTIES AT HEATHROW

At yesterday's mass meeting of Heathrow members of the Transport and General Workers' Union it was evident how complex the attitudes of trade unionists on the issue of such disputes can be. If art of the work of the engineers in unofficial strike had not been done by other workers, their last week's formal agreement to do so had been abandoned. British Airways would probably have been together ground by now. The conflict has reduced the number of flights, however, and the TGWU members have threatened to take industrial action of their own if any of their number lose their jobs. Their warning to the company's effect strengthens the hand of the strikers.

The TGWU is mainly a union of the less skilled and less well paid, who have little reason to sympathize with the maintenance men's demand for restored pay differentials and for negotiating rights outside the industry's existing joint arrangements. Still less do they want to see their own jobs threatened by a long dispute over such matters. But the conventions of their movement still hold some sway, and resentment against pay restraint is not confined to those who have done relatively badly out of it.

These conflicting motives are apparent in most disputes of the distinctive type that has become common in this stage of incomes policy. As at Leyland and Port

Talbot, and now at Ford's Halewood plant too, a small group of skilled workers take action even at the risk of finding themselves at odds with other trade unionists and their own union, as well as management and the Government. How the forces align themselves in these cases depends on many factors. At British Leyland a factor was the management's engineering union and the Government's support of the isolation of the strikers, who gave in (though many tensions remain). At Heathrow similar conditions are present, but they have not yet had the same effect.

Part of the difference lies in the fact that British Leyland was already tottering, while British Airways are not. Official warning about the loss of future public investment do not have the same force this time. But the main difference lies in the way all parties have managed to get things into a muddle. Communications have been bad and offers have been misunderstood. The contentious "blacklegs" clause, which was agreed upon with at least the tacit consent of the AEUW leadership, was made public in such a way that the union felt obliged to condemn it, in spite of its acute embarrassment at being defied so openly by its members.

British Airways introduced a further element of confusion at the weekend by raising the bare of a leaving plot (a charge

which it was forced to modify almost out of existence a few hours later). Sir Harold Wilson hastened the end of the 1966 seamen's strike by making a similar accusation, but on the whole the gambit is a difficult one to carry off. There are often members of the extreme left somewhere on the fringes of an unofficial strike, and they usually have ulterior motives for stirring it up. But a strike cannot be sustained long if most of the participants do not believe in it, and in this case the grounds of the maintenance men's discontent are plain and obvious. Such bluster simply tends to breed mistrust in other groups like the TGWU workers.

The Heathrow strikers have been isolated indeed, but not in such a way as to make them think that they cannot gain their ends. Yet the airline cannot commit itself to an award in August until it is known what formula of pay restraint, if any, will be in force then; nor to the overthrow of its multi-union negotiating system. Still less can the union accept the repeated defiance of its repeated instructions. It is just because many others among its membership feel the same grievance as the maintenance men that the union needs to assert discipline if a succession of revolts is to be avoided. Falttering and inconsistent actions simply create confusion and obscure the way to a settlement.

Thorium reactors

From Mr J. G. Firth
Sir, President Carter's statement on the policy of United States domestic nuclear programme should be understood. By banning the production of plutonium he is really seeking to strike at the heart of the anti-nuclear lobby whose only claim is proliferation of plutonium production. He wants the nuclear industry to use its ingenuity to develop fast breeders.

The thorium reactor is a viable alternative. Thorium reserves are at least three times more abundant than uranium and, therefore, it is greater potential energy reserve than uranium and, as a result, it is cheaper. Although the thorium fuel cycle does present technical difficulties there are two distinct advantages which may now be sufficient to stimulate its full-scale development.

Reading of more fuel than is actually consumed is practically possible using thorium reactor systems. These are, intrinsically, much safer than fast reactors.

The thorium cycle does not necessarily depend upon the use of plutonium which now has unfavourable emotive connotations. The ability to breed more nuclear fuel from fertile materials like uranium 238 and thorium is seen as a fast reactor. Thorium can be converted in a reactor to fissile uranium 233, which is more favourable nuclear properties than any other fissile fuel such as uranium 235 or plutonium, and, as a result, it is cheaper. Thorium can be converted in a reactor to fissile uranium 233, which is more favourable nuclear properties than any other fissile fuel such as uranium 235 or plutonium, and, as a result, it is cheaper.

The International Atomic Energy Agency published a report on the Utilization of Thorium in Power Reactors in 1966, the sum-

mary report and recommendations clearly identify that, in the long run, thorium breeders using thorium are an attractive alternative to the fast breeder line of development. President Carter's seven point plan includes for a restructuring of the United States breeder reactor programme to give greater priority to alternative designs.

Yours faithfully,
J. G. FIRTH,
19 Ashfield Road,
Stoneygate,
Leicester.
April 14.

Disturbed adolescents

From the Headmaster of Etham Green School
Sir, There was an arresting statement at the conclusion of your April 13 report on disturbed adolescents. I refer to the judgment of Miss J. A. Simpson of Halesowen social services that the difficulty facing institutions which have disturbed children on roll is that they are geared to the needs of most of the children in them.

While there seemed to be just a hint of criticism that it would be so, I suspect that most people would agree. But it is becoming less and less so. There are approaching 2,000 children in this school, but I would estimate that as much as half any time is given in most weeks to the needs of those few—certainly less than 50 in number—whose attitude threatens to bring the learning process to a halt in any class where they appear.

It is not the case, as your report suggests, that the minority who disturb the smooth running of schools are not being coped with. The neglected children, like the neglected majority in adult society, are those who behave themselves and get on with the job. The share of attention and resources they receive is far less than they deserve. Never has so much been done for so few at the expense of so many.

Yours faithfully,
PETER DAWSON,
Etham Green School,
Queenscroft Road, SES.
April 14.

Pressure on airports

From Mr D. C. Wood
Sir, The concern expressed by the Local Authorities Aircraft Noise Council (Jener, April 12) concerning the increasing pressure on London airports is understandable, but, like the poor, the airports will always be with us, and cannot be spirited away.

Surely the council must now be regretting quite bitterly its stand in opposing the absurd, hugely expensive, and inaccessible M4 when had it supported the findings of Roskill, it might, even now, be experiencing some relief from the airport siting. As Mr Goldstein commented in the same issue, "to the north of London".

Has it learnt from its previous mistakes? Yours faithfully,
DERICK WOOD, Chairman,
Defenders of Essex,
The Chase,
Foggesham East End,
Essex.
April 13.

Creation of Uganda

From Dr Richard A. Frost
Sir, Mr C. Le G. G. Egan's letter in your issue today (April 13) is misleading. It seems to suggest that Uganda was a country of which the Kabaka was hereditary King. Uganda, however, is a country created by the British and incorporated into the British Empire, and the Kabaka was ruler from long before the arrival of the British, and Bworo, Toro and other areas. The conflict between the last Kabaka, Sir Frederick Mutesa, and the British Government arose from the differing views about the position of Buganda within the Uganda Protectorate.

There was no "traditional structure of government in Uganda"—because there was no Uganda until the British created it. Yours faithfully,
RICHARD A. FROST,
The Close,
Appleton,
Oxfordshire.
April 13.

Future of local broadcasting

From Mr P. F. Smith
Sir, Your leading article on the future of local broadcasting (April 15) relies far too heavily on the negative aspects of the case against the recommendation of the Annan Committee that all local broadcasting should be under the control of a new Local Broadcasting Authority.

On the positive side you mention only that BBC local radio makes some contribution to the main stream of the Corporation's activities. You say nothing of the outstanding achievements of local radio in serving the community of which it is a part. The evidence in Nottingham, provided not only by the audience research figures compiled by the BBC but also by an independent survey carried out under the auspices of the University of Leeds, is that in the nine years of its existence BBC Radio Nottingham has built up a considerable reputation and following in the city and county. Its policy, independently developed in the freedom given to local radio by the BBC centrally, has been to provide a basic service of local news, information and assistance and to cater for the needs of minority groups representing a wide range of interests. In pursuing this objective the staff of the local station have not been hampered by the need to cultivate and retain a particular audience dictated by the requirements of advertisers, nor by the financial worries which must beset any organization dependent on advertising revenue, nor by the need to balance a budget. Those staff together with members of the community, have created lively and imaginative weekly programmes for the two major immigrant groups, the local churches, schools, just to name a few, and all sorts of other people. Would those programmes survive the need to raise advertising revenue?

There may be many occasions when arguments in favour of the status quo are appropriately founded on the fact of an acceptable alternative—but this is not one of them. BBC local radio has achieved much in its short life and there is much still to be achieved. It should be sent on its way with encouragement and good will, not with the grudging acceptance that the alternative would inevitably be worse. Yours faithfully,
PETER SMITH, Acting Warden,
Worley Hall,
University Park,
Nottingham.
April 15.

From Dr J. Apley
Sir, Among the 522 pages of the Annan Committee report I read with amusement that "At the first breath of criticism the Corporation adopts a posture of a hedgehog at bay". A gem, if slightly synthetic. Through its Chairman the BBC has now gone over to the attack (*The Times*, April 15). His opposition to the proposed region of regional broadcasting should be strongly supported.

What has particularly encouraged me during the last few years as Chairman of the BBC West Regional Council and member of the General Council, is what is clumsily labelled de-metropolitanization together with the healthy trend to increase and enhance regional contributions to broadcasting. At last the tide was coming in; now Annan's communication canutes were to turn it back. They would reduce the more faithful representation of the wide English scene that was being achieved in regional, as in national and international, broadcasting.

Where in the BBC regional "island sites" did the Annanites discover the low morale they reported? At meetings of regional chairmen we have been very guarded, and just as ready to turn against as to fight side by side with the regular forces, but with a sense of purpose and achievement reflecting that of the regional staffs. If the proposals to demote and debilitate regional broadcasting are firmly discarded morale will most certainly suffer. Yours faithfully,
JOHN APLEY,
16 Somerset Place,
Bath,
Avon.
April 15.

Laughing bishops

From the Rev Robert de Massey
Sir, I have noted, with Dr William Swannell, the hilarity of consecration day, and this as far back as photographs of consecrations of bishops have been published. It has nothing to do with Dr Coggan. There is an old proverb, "He who laughs last laughs longest", and in many cases post-consecration appearances would suggest that this indeed was the "last laugh", although in a sense other than was proverbially intended. Once a bishop, the prospect of laughter is often sadly diminished, so let us not attempt to analyse their last misanthropic fling, but rather rejoice in it. Yours faithfully,
ROBERT DE MASSEY,
Abbeydale Rectory,
Colchester,
Essex.
April 16.

Mother's occupation

From Mrs Mariel Field-Smith
Sir, Perhaps the answer to your correspondent, Mr J. F. Nigge's query (letter, April 4) as to the extent of question about his mother's occupation when filling in forms lies in the statement I was astonished to read in a local news paper today. The woman in question for a "Tribune Queen" said she only wanted "to get away from the stigma of being a housewife and mother". Yours faithfully,
MARIEL FIELD-SMITH,
North Lodge,
Chesapeake,
Ascot,
Berkshire.
April 6.

Confusion of purpose about education

From Mr B. J. H. Blanchard
Sir, In the long history of educational debate in this country it is not often that the ordinary classroom practitioner has rated a first leader in *The Times* (April 14). May I congratulate you not only on according them that distinction but also on the point of being correct in the last paragraph in which you draw attention to the confusion of purpose about education.

But surely you are unfair in blaming teachers for that confusion. Can the responsibility of the expected to have a "livelier sense" of what society reasonably expects of it when society itself, mirrored in your own pages, hardly knows what it wants of schools?

A cursory examination of *The Times* since the beginning of the year shows demands for more formal teaching of the three Rs (January 7), calls for a revival of classics teaching (January 24), for "industry" training, business games and discussions on production, marketing and so on (January 25), for more education in politics (January 25), for teachers to help protect the rich child from the poor (February 1) and for training in hi-fi electronics (April 13).

Granted the individual importance of all these items (not to mention the many other demands for a multiplicity of pressure groups) a multiplicity of demands is a confusion of values, priorities, emphases, interests and subjects within society itself—it is small wonder that the schools are also confused.

May I add that my work takes me into schools of many complexions and I stand in admiration at what they manage to achieve despite the nation's internal inconsistencies; it is a pity that they cannot be accorded the atmosphere of non-partisanship that they need to get by with the job—it is too important to be left to amateurs. I beg to remain, Sir, Your obedient servant.

BRIAN J. H. BLANCHARD,
Lecturer in Education,
Bristol Polytechnic,
Redland Hill,
Bristol.
April 14.

From Mr Stuart Sexton
Sir, Your correspondent, Tim Devlin, tells us that one of the 30 "bright" ideas to come out of the education conferences at the British centres of excellence where teachers can give intensive teaching on Saturday mornings.

Would it not be an even brighter idea for such centres of excellence to be open on the other mornings of the week, or better still all day? I believe such centres of excellence used to be known as "grammar schools". Yours faithfully,
STUART SEXTON,
Hornford Cottage,
Sunderland Road,
Sunderland,
South Croxson,
Staffordshire.
April 12.

From Mr Martin Fisher
Sir, As a teacher, I think you are right to draw attention to the lack of certainty and direction among teachers (letter, April 14). It is a pity that you did not go on to ask why this certainty is lacking. Schools are bound to reflect, to some extent, the society which sustains them; it is that society which is unclear about the function of schools: some cry for more science and technology, some want only what can be measured, some want to be at the forefront of social engineering, or as the spearhead of an attack on capitalism and consumerism.

Morocco and the Sahara

From the Ambassador of Morocco
Sir, I have read with great interest your leading article "Morocco's own part in the Sahara" (April 14), and have been surprised by your biased parallel that you have drawn between this matter and those of Zaire and the Benin.

First of all, I would like to clarify a point: Morocco has not annexed the Sahara. Morocco has recuperated it from Spain once the International Court of Justice recognized its right and allowing an international tripartite agreement between Morocco, Spain and Mauritania.

This agreement was approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations. Since then, the Sahara has been an integral part of the Moroccan Kingdom.

Your article mentions Algeria's own part in the Sahara allowing the Polisario to use its territories as a base and supplying it with military and diplomatic support. This is definitely an act of aggression against the territorial integrity of Morocco and I thank you for underlining it. Morocco's initiative in Zaire was

not meant to "buy" the support for its own right as you put it. It is a fact that the Sahara and the Zaire problems are similar, since the territorial integrity of a country has been threatened in both cases. And Morocco is proud to show its concern and engage in the struggle to safeguard the territorial integrity of an African country each time its security is threatened. It has always been a constant policy of Morocco, be it in the Sahara, in the Congo in the 1960s, in Nigeria or in Zaire today.

As for the "Raid on Benin", the affair was often qualified by your own newspaper as dark and mysterious. However, you have intentionally ignored all the declarations made by Morocco to international organizations explaining that it had nothing to do with it. It goes for the "prestige" of your newspaper and the respect of its readers that all sides of the story should be faithfully exposed and explained.

Yours faithfully,
RADREDDINE SENOUSI,
Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco,
Royal Moroccan Embassy,
49 Queen's Gate Gardens, SW7.

take orders from members of the Special Constabulary. This indicates that this is a new departure whereas the case has always been the case and the senior regular officer on duty is always the officer in charge regardless of the rank of the special constabulary officer doing the same duty.

As a member of the Working Party I feel it is important that these particular points should be clarified. At the same time would also make it clear that it is for the Committee of the Metropolis to make his decision on the implementation of the findings of the Working Party as far as it affects the Metropolitan Force.

While I have at the moment over 2,000 specials in London there is a need for more and I hope that the interest created by the Working Party Report will bring into our ranks those public spirited citizens stretched regular force. I should be happy to forward details to interested applicants. Details can also be obtained from any police station throughout the country.

Yours faithfully,
A. A. EXAMMAD,
Chief Constable,
Metropolitan Special Constabulary,
New Scotland Yard,
Broadway, SW1.
April 13.

The elderly and rail travel

From General Sir Frank Simpson
Sir, May I support the views of Lord Clark in his letter (April 15) on the difficulties of elderly people with their baggage when travelling by train? I am (age 78) one of them and I also have a post-operative condition which makes it inadvisable for me to lift a suitcase.

I too find that on arriving in London (Paddington) there are few porters. The few trolleys are either snapped up by the younger people more agile in alighting or being used by the few porters. I have been to the Isle of Wight for convalescence four times in the last three years. At Southampton I have found a porter after much delay, but the last one seemed so aged that he would not even attempt to lift a suitcase. At Portsmouth Harbour, where I hoped conditions would be better, I was informed firmly that there were no porters by a senior official who then rudely hunted out a trolley for me. Certainly at all three of these stations, and at Bath, the railway staff do their best to help, and seem not to like the situation.

Lord Clark does not suggest a solution. I too hesitate to ask British Rail, with all its current difficulties, to provide extra porters for the likes of us. But may it not be that an imaginative but quite minor redeployment of resources and/or provision of extra porters would meet the most urgent needs? In France and Switzerland the larger stations have "red cap" porters who shift baggage on a prescribed tariff. (Indicatively quoted expense, £1.00.) Surely Lord Clark is not right in feeling that the majority of people over 75 are prepared to accept a philosophy of not moving about. Most of them do want to travel for whatever reason and British Rail is good enough to encourage this by its wise provision of the Seafair Caissons' Railcard.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
FRANK SIMPSON,
5 Northfield Close,
Bath.
April 16.

From Sir G. Graham
Sir, May an octogenarian, crippled with arthritis so that I cannot carry a bag, presume to suggest to Lord Clark that he travel?

I have to change trains anywhere I write beforehand to ask for a porter to be on the look out for me. They have never failed. I now have various porter friends who take me up in the luggage lift and generally look after me till I am in the train. Quite frequently they refuse to let me go. (This is particularly true of coloured men.)

On one or two occasions when I have arrived at Paddington without doing this, I have always been helped and usually by a hippy type of young man.

I would suggest to Lord Clark that it is much better to travel 2nd class. Business executives in the 1st usually seem to be either asleep or immersed in papers so they do not notice you struggling to get something down from the rack. My experience and that of people in the 2nd class is that they are quite extraordinarily kind and considerate to the old. Yours faithfully,
G. GRAHAM,
Crooked Gate,
Bristle,
Kendal,
Cumbria.
April 16.

From Mr Robert Mason
Sir, I am in the same age group as Lord Clark and like him I travel a great deal by train and was therefore much interested in his letter (April 15), about his problems with his luggage at railway stations. I am happy to be able to offer him a solution.

Many elderly people, including presumably Lord Clark, find it hard to change habits of a lifetime and, take heavy luggage such as leather suitcases which even when empty are heavy to carry, and too much of it containing too many changes of clothes, often of heavy material, and accessories.

The answer is light-weight luggage and very little of it. I suggest to Lord Clark that before setting out he should sit through the items he proposes to take and leave out all those not absolutely necessary, then put what remains in a canvas or similar bag which he can carry in one hand, leaving the other free for his umbrella and *The Times*.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT MASON,
4 Sussex Square,
Brighton.

John Evelyn's library

From Dr J. F. A. Mason
Sir, The answer to the point raised by Mr R. E. Maddison (April 12) is that John Evelyn did make manuscript notes in some of his books. Yours faithfully,
J. F. A. MASON,
Librarian of Christ Church,
Christ Church,
Oxford.
April 16.

Price of eternal life

From Mr P. V. Jones
Sir, Mr Jones should be warned that killers stalk the pages of *The Times* almost daily (Letters, April 9). On Tuesday, Mr Bevan informed us all that "the alternatives for our society are 'socialism or the annihilation of mankind itself'". On Wednesday a booklet on sex education argued that "sex outside marriage is destroying civilisation" and a recent *British Medical Journal* warned that there was a significant correlation between eating cornflakes at breakfast and the onset of Crohn's disease. So as well as avoiding sugar, milkpots, smoking and polythene butter, the prudent man will also vote Labour, remain faithful to his wife and eat his cornflakes at lunchtime. This seems a high price to pay for eternal life. Yours faithfully,
PETER V. JONES,
38 Mawson Road,
Cambridge.



COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 18: The Duke of Edinburgh, Senior Fellow, this evening attended the Council of Engineering Institutions' Fellowship of Engineering Dinner for New Fellows at Apothecaries Hall, City of London.

Mr Richard Davies was in attendance.

The Prince of Wales was this evening entertained at dinner by the Prime Minister (the Right Hon James Callaghan, MP) at Chequers.

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 18: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, as President of the Royal Ballet, this evening attended a Ballet Promenade Performance at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, and presented the 1976 Evening Standard Award for Ballet to Miss Lynn Seymour.

The Hon Mrs Wills was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
April 18: Princess Alexandra, accompanied by the Hon Angus Ogilvy today named as Cable Vents the latest addition to the fleet of Cable and Wireless Limited, at the Bumber Graving Dock, Laminating, Lumberdock, and the Royal Highness and the Hon Angus Ogilvy travelled in an aircraft of the Queen's Flight.

The Lady Mary Fitzalan-Howard was in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh has consented to become patron of the newly formed Friends of the Royal Academy.

A reception will be held at the Swedish Ambassador's residence, 23 Portland Place, on Friday, April 22, at 12.30 pm, to celebrate the birthday of the King of Sweden (April 30).

Swedish national residents in Britain after application in writing to the Swedish Embassy, 23 North Row, London, W1R 2DN.

A memorial service for Mrs Cecil Woodman-Smith will be held at St James's Church, Piccadilly, London, W1, on Friday, April 22, 1977, at noon.

Birthdays today

Sir Andrew Gifford, 67; Sir Edward Lewis, 77; Miss Gladys Mitchell, 76; Sir Herbert Wilcox, 87; Lieutenant-General Sir John Woodall, 80.

Today's engagements

Lecture: Rev David Brindley: 'The Problem of the Resurrection'. Christ Church, Oxford, St Margaret's, Eastcheap, 1.10.
The High Commissioner for New Zealand opens exhibition of New Zealand stamps, Gibsons Gallery, 39 Strand, 12.
Exhibition: 'The Rolf Harris Picture Show', Kodak Photographic Gallery, 246 High Holborn, 9-5.
Festival for Mind and Body exhibition, Olympia, 1-3.
Windsor: His Majesty the Queen, Her Majesty the Queen Mother, and the Duke of Edinburgh, will be in residence at Windsor Castle, from April 19 to 21, 1977.
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Royal engagements

The following engagements for May have been announced by Buckingham Palace:
1. The Prince of Wales attends coronation of the Queen's Silver Jubilee.
2. The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will be in residence at Windsor Castle, from May 1 to 3, 1977.
3. The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will be in residence at Windsor Castle, from May 4 to 6, 1977.
4. The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will be in residence at Windsor Castle, from May 7 to 9, 1977.
5. The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will be in residence at Windsor Castle, from May 10 to 12, 1977.

Harrow School

The Summer Term begins at Harrow today. There are 762 boys in the school this term. G. R. A. Robinson (West Acre) is head of the school and R. M. Tiddall (Moreton) is captain of cricket. King Lear will be performed in speech room on May 20 and 21. Governors' Speech Day will be on May 25 and Speech Day on June 2. The half-term break will extend from 6.30 pm on Speech Day until 8.30 pm on Wednesday, June 8. Ascension Day will be on Saturday, July 2, and term will end on Saturday, July 9. The Eton v Harrow match will take place at Lord's on Saturday and Sunday, July 9 and 10.

Malvern College

The Summer Term at Malvern College begins today. A. D. McL. Barclay is senior chapel prefect and J. M. L. Charlesworth junior chapel prefect. A silver jubilee concert will take place on June 3 and the feast is on June 4 until June 8. Commemoration will be held at the end of the term on July 9. The preacher will be the Bishop of Gloucester and the speaker will be the new chairman of the Malvern College Council, Mr Justice Stephen Brown, QC.

Kelly College

The hundredth Summer Term begins today. The Prince of Wales will visit Kelly to celebrate the centenary of the college on May 17. He will inspect a guard of honour mounted by the RN and RAF sections of the CCF and unveil a stone to mark the beginning of the new swimming bath and squash courts.

The annual inspection of the

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P. E. D. Birchall and Miss S. E. Black
The engagement is announced between Mr P. E. D. Birchall, son of Mr and Mrs G. J. Birchall, of Rectory Farm, Dunstable, Bedfordshire, and Miss S. E. Black, daughter of Mr and Mrs G. J. Birchall, of Rectory Farm, Dunstable, Bedfordshire.

Mr C. R. B. Cox and Miss B. J. Sheppards
The engagement is announced between Mr C. R. B. Cox, of 47 Woodville Road, New Barnet, Hertfordshire, and Miss B. J. Sheppards, daughter of Mr and Mrs Stephen Sheppards, of 193 Leamington Road, Coventry.

Mr D. E. Gillespie and Miss E. M. Hay
The engagement is announced between Mr D. E. Gillespie, of 15 Clarendon Road, Letchworth, Herts., and Miss E. M. Hay, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. M. Hay, of Edinglassie, Hants, Aberdeen-shire.

Dr N. G. W. and Miss R. E. Metcalfe
The engagement is announced between Dr N. G. W. and Miss R. E. Metcalfe, of 15 Clarendon Road, Letchworth, Herts., and Miss R. E. Metcalfe, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. M. Hay, of Edinglassie, Hants, Aberdeen-shire.

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Galileo letter on discovery of sunspots

sold at Sotheby's for record £17,500

By David M. Little
A page of a letter written by Galileo Galilei in 1612 announcing his discovery of sunspots was sold for £17,500 (estimate £15,000 to £20,000) at Sotheby's yesterday. It was a world auction record for a letter.

The letter, which was bought by a collector from New York, was written in Latin and addressed to a correspondent and related to one of the astronomer's discoveries that earned an admonition from the Pope.

A letter from Francois de Malherbe made £3,000 (estimate £2,000 to £4,000), and the autograph drafts of two letters by Machiavelli £2,000 (estimate £1,500 to £2,500).

The sale, the first of two days devoted to Continental and Russian autograph letters, literary manuscripts and historical documents, brought £53,656, with just over 8 per cent unsold.

The first day of Christie's sale of the contents of Chestham Park, Henfield, West Sussex, the home of the late Prince Litter, produced an auction record for a single piece of German furniture, £5,500 for the rococo Saxon pine, lacquered bureau cabinet modelled by J. G. Borch and acquired by Christian Reiner, of Dresden. It was bought by a private German collector and forms a pair with a cabinet in the Museum fur Kunsthandwerk, Dresden.

A George III marquetry commode with a serpentine scagliola top, possibly the work of Pierre Langlois, went to Chain Libraries for £3,000 (estimate £2,000 to £4,000), but a walnut longcase clock by George Graham of London, which was bought by R. A. Lee, was perhaps disappointing at £5,500 (estimate £4,000 to £7,000).

A Louis XV kingwood parquetry commode sold for £5,000 (estimate £4,000 to £6,000), and the total for the day was £22,766.

In London Christie's also sold Chinese and Korean ceramics and works of art for a total of £159,163 with 6 per cent bought in much of the bidding in the higher reaches of the sale was astronomical, and a large pair of tall modelled glazed buff pottery figures of Buddhist monks of the Tang dynasty brought £25,000 (estimate £20,000 to £30,000).

A twelfth-century Korean celadon mei ping, a broad-shouldered, neck-necked vase, followed at £16,000, well above its estimate of £12,500 to £14,000. Another Tang buff pottery figure, a stallion, sold well despite reservations to the legs, ears and base, making £11,500 (estimate £6,000 to £10,000).

Phillips sold furniture and works of art for £43,570, with 2 per cent bought in the late afternoon. A century Dutch oak kist, or large cupboard, went to De Waert for £1,400 (estimate £800), and Bishop paid £1,050 for a pair of water-colour views of Peterborough and St. Asaph cathedrals by Miles Birket Foster (estimate £1,000).

Better selection process

for film award urged

By Kenneth Goding
Nominations for the Grierson Award, one of Europe's most sought-after prizes for short films, are to be encouraged from film schools after a statement from the panel making the 1976 award that it was not convinced that the films for the purpose of the award were as good as those from film schools.

The panel, which awarded the award for the first time last year, said that the best procedure for getting a short list was to appoint nominating bodies. Since then the schools have become more active, but the films do not necessarily come to the attention of the bodies until two or three years after they are made, too late for the purposes of the award.

A nominating body to represent the schools was therefore being considered.

The award was made by the British Federation of Film Societies, which also is not convinced that all suitable films are being brought to its notice.

The selection procedure for nominations from the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, the British Industrial and Scientific Film Association, the

National Panel for Film Festivals, a group of sponsored film critics, the Grierson Memorial Trust and the federation's own viewing panel.

Miss Jean Young, the federation's secretary, explained: "It was decided when the award was set up that the best procedure for getting a short list was to appoint nominating bodies. Since then the schools have become more active, but the films do not necessarily come to the attention of the bodies until two or three years after they are made, too late for the purposes of the award."

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Women sing in

papal choir for first time

From Our Correspondent
Rome, April 18
A centuries-old Roman Catholic church tradition was broken yesterday when women sang for the first time in a papal choir.

A group of about half a dozen women took part, some as soloists. In the performance of Palestrina's Mass, the women sang the Gloria and the Credo.

The choir, which was led by the St John Lateran choir, the other three being those of St Mark's and the Vatican's Sistine and Giulio chapel, have been the most rigorous observers of a ban on women in the choir.

At choristers were male and usually unmarried for a period the boy sopranos and altos were castrated to prolong their singing life.

The inclusion of women was an experiment by Mr Laureto Bucci, the St John Lateran choirmaster. He is understood to be testing the waters of women in the choir.

Their performance was excellent, but to see whether the church authorities are ready to accept the inclusion of women in their most important choir.

Prime Minister
The Prime Minister attended a dinner given by the Prime Minister yesterday evening at the Grosvenor Hotel in London.

The other guests were: Mr Michael Foot, Mr Denis Healey, Mr Roy Jenkins, Mr David Lloyd, Mr Geoffrey Howe, Mr Kenneth Robinson, Mr Kenneth Robinson, Mr Kenneth Robinson.

Old Berkhamsians' Association
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50 years ago

From The Times of Friday, April 18, 1927

Underwater TV
From Our Special Correspondent
Tolworth, Surrey, April 17.—With the aid of underwater television confirmed at first speculatively by the positive identification of the submarine Affray a year ago when apparatus was hurriedly assembled by Marconi's Wireless Telegraphy Company for the Admiralty, and subsequently by laboratory experiments—a great deal of development work has been done to improve the equipment, and this afternoon the latest prototype set for operational use in deep waters was seen for the first time in public.

Admiralty representatives were given a demonstration of the new equipment on Tuesday, and the progress of the work has been shown to the convention on the British contribution to television on April 25 and 30.

Castle reopening
Dunrobin Castle, home of the Duke of Argyll, which was badly damaged by fire in November, 1975, is to be reopened to the public on May 9 during the Campbell week.

OBITUARY

CARDINAL CONWAY

R.C. Archbishop of Armagh

Primate of Ireland, the Archbishop of Armagh, Cardinal Conway, died on Sunday.

Recently he answered a press question with: "Anyone who would like to be Pope at the present time must be soft in the head". Just 10 years ago he was, in the view of some pundits of Rome, definitely *inipetabile*; and his friend not even would have called the cardinal from Belfast anything but hard-headed.

His see was Armagh, but he was born in Belfast in 1913 and reared there, in the very heart of the Catholic ghetto, the Falls Road. His early education was predictable: Catholic primary school, and secondary schooling with the Christian Brothers, who taught him the Irish language and a proper respect for his "national heritage".

They also taught him the prescribed curriculum well enough to assist him with scholarships and distinctions to Queen's University, Belfast, where he took a respectable honours BA in 1935, and a second degree in canon law in 1941. He returned to Ireland, and, after a year's teaching in Belfast, was appointed to the Maynooth seminary, where he was ordained to the priesthood in 1937, and awarded a Doctorate of Divinity in the following year.

Further studies in the Gregorian University in Rome earned him a second doctorate in canon law in 1941. He returned to Ireland, and, after a year's teaching in Belfast, was appointed to the Maynooth seminary, where he was ordained to the priesthood in 1937, and awarded a Doctorate of Divinity in the following year.

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MR RIGINALD JEBB

He achieved national notoriety for the fierceness of his attacks on the Liberal Cabinet ministers involved in the Marston charges of 1913.

Four years later, when Cecil Chesterton died on active service in France, his brother, Gilbert, who was deeply devoted to him, took on the editorship of *The New Witness*. Although it did not prosper, Chesterton commanded a sufficient respect for his teaching, and his philosophy (in brief, that of the small-brother), which he and Belloc preached, for *The New Witness* to be re-born as *G.K.'s Weekly*.

It lasted until Chesterton's death. Belloc, in assuming the editorship, was really preparing the editorial chair for his son-in-law. The name of the paper was changed to *The Weekly Review*, and Reginald Jebb edited it, with his father-in-law's help, until Belloc's death. But when Chesterton died in 1941, Jebb kept the *Disfranchisement* flying, and the paper continued to face financial difficulties which were not a success.

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Barclaycard trying to dispel fear of credit

By Our Commercial Editor

Britons as a whole were still reserved in their attitude towards credit, and even among credit card holders there was a degree of caution, Mr Ralph Kettell, national sales manager for Barclaycard, said at the annual conference in Eastbourne yesterday of the Radio, Electrical and Television Retailers' Association.

Research had shown this and it was the reason Barclaycard, which was spending around £500,000 on advertising campaigns this year, was running a campaign to try to dispel the fears of cardholders, Mr Kettell went on.

Barclaycard nevertheless was recruiting 40,000 new card holders a month and adding new retailers at the rate of 1,500 a month.

But he admitted that the two major travel and entertainment cards, American Express and Diners Club, were expanding, with respectively 20,000 and 17,000 outlets. This compared with Barclaycard and Access, each with around 100,000 outlets, Mr Kettell said.

Although the Consumer Credit Act had stopped any further direct selling of credit card facilities to the public, other forms of promotion are to be tried. Meeting the Credit Act's requirements would eventually cost Barclaycard £1m, Mr Kettell estimated.

At the conference, the theme of which was "Profit or Loss", Mr Ronald Gleadow, commercial manager of the South-eastern Electricity Board, forecast a greater importance for retailers in the selling chain if, as now seemed likely, the system of manufacturers' recommended prices (MRP) was abandoned through Government pressure.

He described as "utter balderdash" the belief among some manufacturers that if retailers were left to fix prices it would be "a major disaster" with many makers going out of business.

"All the abolition of MRP will mean is that we will have to be sensible about all aspects of our retailing",

Community backs IMF plans to finance balance of payment deficits

Luxembourg, April 18.—European Community finance ministers tonight decided to give their full support to plans by the International Monetary Fund for a special fund to finance balance of payments deficits in developing and industrial nations. Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer and current President of the EEC Finance Council, told a press conference.

Mr Healey said the special facility could come into force next autumn. Money for the fund, proposed by Dr Johannes Witteveen, managing director of the IMF, would come in roughly equal halves from Arab oil-producing nations with substantial payments surpluses, and from leading Western industrial nations grouped in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Preparations to set up the fund will be discussed at the IMF Interim Committee meeting in Washington on April 28 and 29.

Dr Hans Apel, West German Finance Minister, told journalists that the special facility of up to \$14,000m (about £8,000m) must have strict conditions attached for borrowing countries.

Essentially, Dr Apel said, only the United States, West Germany, Japan, The Netherlands and Switzerland are seen as potential contributors to the special facility from the side of industrialized nations.

Dr Apel added that the Community decided against any increase in the IMF's special drawing rights (SDR). He implied that the United States would also be opposed to such

an increase which could unnecessarily raise international liquidity.

The Community was divided, however, on the problem of increasing IMF quotas, Dr Apel told reporters.

He said The Netherlands and West Germany were firmly opposed to increasing quotas more than 20 to 25 per cent, while Britain and Italy would like to see a quota rise of as much as 50 per cent and the IMF an increase of as much as 100 per cent.

In the absence of any clear Community verdict on the quota subject, Mr Healey, when presenting the EEC position at the IMF Interim Committee, will merely stress that the EEC as such sees no sense in changing the existing IMF quota distribution.

Mr Ford wants US to take a tough stand against car dumping by Japanese

From Frank Vogt

Washington, April 18.—Mr Henry Ford II, the chairman of the Ford Motor Company, believes that one reason why American-made cars are not selling too well is that the Japanese might be dumping their products here.

In a television interview, Mr Ford said that he does not have all the facts, but he believes it is true and that the time has come for the United States Government to take a tough stand.

He said he has long supported the introduction of a petrol tax to reduce American energy consumption and he would not object if President Carter proposed such a tax this week.

He firmly opposed, however, the introduction of a tax on large cars that needed a great deal of petrol. Such a tax, he suggested, might drive many consumers out of the car buying market altogether and lead to the unemployment of 10,000 people or even more in the United States car industry.

Mr Ford said that he was deeply worried about the increasing intervention of the Government in the free enterprise system and in the limitations being imposed by government on individual choice. "I think we are going down the socialist road in this country—not fast, but we are drifting", he said.

The Ford chief rejected the suggestion that his company and its chief American rivals were making vast profits. "Our profits are terrible", he asserted.

They must be seen in relation to sales, assets and net worth. When viewed in this way, it is clear that they are not sufficient to enable the industry to comply with government orders regarding safety, pollution and fuel efficiency and at the same time enable the industry to raise its productivity.

"From now until 1980 we will invest \$3,000m (about £4,700m) to meet the laws—and this spending will not increase our productivity at all", Mr Ford said.

EEC steel crisis policy attacked

By Our Industrial Correspondent

Measures being implemented by the EEC Commission and aimed at alleviating the problems of the European steel industry were attacked yesterday by the head of one of West Germany's leading steel companies.

Herr Hans Brinbaum, chairman of the managing board of Salzgitter AG said that the anti-crisis measures drawn up by Viscount Etienne Davignon, the commissioner for industrial affairs, did not provide a sufficient answer to the industry's problems, and it remained to be seen if the EEC measures—due to be introduced from the beginning of next month—would be successful.

He told a press conference that competition on the world steel market was now so strong that there would be no quick reduction in the overcapacity situation—at least while demand for steel grew only slowly.

Annual world steel production was about 700 million tonnes against a capacity of 900 million tonnes, and there had been considerable expansion of capacity in Japan in the past few years. The Japanese exports to the EEC, he said, were only relatively small in terms of the size of the total market, but their exports to third country markets were ruining EEC steel sales in those areas.

The EEC's anti-crisis plan is aimed at achieving a long term restructuring and rationalization of the industry, coupled with tougher controls on imports.

In brief

New Bristol attempt to get Toyota into port

Port of Bristol Authority yesterday offered the Japanese car company Toyota a cheaper site in another attempt to attract it to the authority's showpiece West Dock.

The revised offer could sway the decision in Bristol's favour after Toyota admitted it was constantly reviewing the situation after land and site surveys at Portbury revealed soaring development and running costs.

Mr John Friddle, Toyota managing director, said: "It is a completely different package. It is impossible to say how much cheaper it is than the original deal because of various complicated factors."

A final decision would be made within two weeks.

Sugar talks open

Mr Gamani Corea, secretary general of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), yesterday formally opened a negotiating conference in Vienna comprising representatives from about 100 nations aimed at drawing up a new sugar agreement.

Cheaper farm loans

The Agricultural Mortgage Corporation yesterday announced that interest on variable rate loans will drop from the 17 per cent fixed last December to 14 per cent, and on fixed rate loans from the 16 per cent adopted last October to 14 per cent.

Existing fixed rate loans will not be affected while the rate of 17 per cent will apply on existing variable rate deals until the quarterly review in June.

Building Society boost

A big increase in funds for the first fortnight of April was announced last night by Britain's seventh largest building society, the Leicester.

Despite Easter, the new funds over the two weeks was £9m—equal to the whole of March. Mr Basil Shyman, chairman, told the society's annual meeting in Leicester funds were now beginning to flow back.

Improved radiator

A new type of lightweight copper radiator for automotive use which, it is claimed, can be produced at significantly lower cost than the conventional product, was announced yesterday by Mureton Radiators.

The result of three years' work sponsored by the International Copper Research Association, it is said to meet the most stringent requirements.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Restructuring essential for all major steel producing nations

From Mr S. Williams

Sir, The article in today's issue of *The Times* by Mr. Tim Renton refers to various aspects of the current world steel crisis, to meet which the European Commission is currently preparing various measures.

I cannot usefully add to the well-aided controversy over the Port Talbot development, nor to his graphic account of the dire state of the Belgian industry, except to say that the Belgian crisis goes well beyond the major steel company he describes.

He does, however, make an incidental reference to Japan, and as this coincides with a news item elsewhere quoting Japanese claims of unfairness in recent United Kingdom action on steel, I would like to make a factual contribution which might help balance the argument.

As against the surplus Japanese steel capacity he mentions, some 20 million tonnes is made up by the 50 or so "non-integrated" works, currently making heavy losses (reported last week at 36 United States dollars a tonne), and only remaining in existence by virtue of immense loans from major Japanese trading houses—the nearest "Japan Ltd" gets to overt state support.

They, too, are the subject of a "crisis plan" not yet accepted by all of them, and they are the source of the imports which arrived in Europe last week at prices which certainly constituted dumping by reference to the Japanese domestic levels prevailing in February, when they were dispatched.

The lower Japanese prices now being mentioned as evidence, not of greater cost

efficiency, but of what almost amounts to a "closing down sale", and it would be unfortunate, to say the least, if this were allowed to exacerbate Europe's own current steel crisis by mere acceptance of damaging imports, or to begot the very difficult arguments on essential restructuring which must somehow be solved by all major traditional steel producing countries.

The Biblical exhortation to remember the "beam" in our own eye is still very valid, but there really is a "mote" in the other fellow's eye too, and our competitors need no help from us in stating their side of the case. British industry—whether nationalized or not—is not always in the wrong.

SELWYN WILLIAMS, The British Independent Steel Producers Association, 5 Cromwell Road, London, SW7

Less than just to engineering

From Miss J. Soesan

Sir, Mr Hansard (*The Times*, April 7) has got it wrong. He will have to supply a great deal more information before his argument can be accepted.

For a start he could specify the "United States standards" he has in mind, qualify "too much" in referring to investment in inventories, identify the source of his statistics and tell us what happened to the figures for 1975.

It is difficult to argue cogently against Mr Hansard's poorly substantiated assertions. However, the comparison he makes does less than justice to the engineering industry: consideration of three points will perhaps redress the balance and enable him to understand the true situation in the industry.

1. The increased value of stocks in United Kingdom engineering companies since 1973 results more from inflation than from massive stockpiling of physical goods. In this period United Kingdom inflation has been more than double that of the United States; consumer prices between 1972 and 1976 rose by 83 per cent in the United Kingdom and 36 per cent in the United States (source: *Trade and Industry*, April 8, 1977). Obviously the value of stocks in this country will have increased relatively.

2. The whole point of the stock relief scheme is to prevent industry paying tax on the non-realizable paper profits which accrue from this very stock appreciation. With this relief the real rate of return in British manufacturing industry in 1975 was below 4 per cent (source: *Trade and Industry*, October 8, 1975). Without it, industry would not have even been preserving its capital base.

A better use of railway land?

From Mr A. Dalgleish

Sir, Mr Sidney Weighell in his letter (April 7) shows much concern that heavy lorries may not pay their full share of track costs. However, there is no doubt that road users as a whole pay far more in tax than the cost of maintaining and building the roads they use.

They make a very substantial positive contribution to central government funds. Mr Weighell was careful to avoid mentioning that rail freight, which he believes to be unfairly treated, pays almost no track costs at all.

3. The IMF loan is of no relevance to this discussion. Government would not have to borrow less if industry did not spend so much money on stocks. I am afraid the flow of funds from sectors of the economy is not as simplistic as Mr Hansard seems to think.

This Government acted wisely in recognizing the effect of inflation on industry's stock levels. So far so good. Now it must recognize how the burden of deferred taxation is affecting financing and, as a matter of urgency, come up with a permanent solution for this, too.

Yours faithfully, JUDITH SOESAN, Assistant Director Commercial Affairs, Engineering Employers' Federation, Broadway House, Tottill Street, London SW1E 9NQ.

What could be of immense value to our country is the land now occupied by the railways. It forms a route network of incomparable potential—if only we could take the rails off it.

ANGUS DALGLEISH, Chairman, Railway Conversion League Ltd., Sharncliffe Road, Chertsey KT16 9NE.

Support likely for Post Office forecasts

By Malcolm Brown

The independent review of the forecasting techniques used by the Post Office to determine its telecommunications equipment requirements is expected to be ready by next month.

Senior executives in the equipment manufacturing industry who have given evidence before Mr Michael Posner, the Cambridge economist brought in by the Government to con-

duct the inquiry, believe that the review will probably conclude that the corporation has got its sums right.

The Government set up the inquiry in March after intense pressure from the industry which was disturbed that the cuts in exchange equipment spending announced by the Post Office last November could cost the industry 15,000 jobs over a two-year period.

In March, Plassey announced 4,000 redundancies.

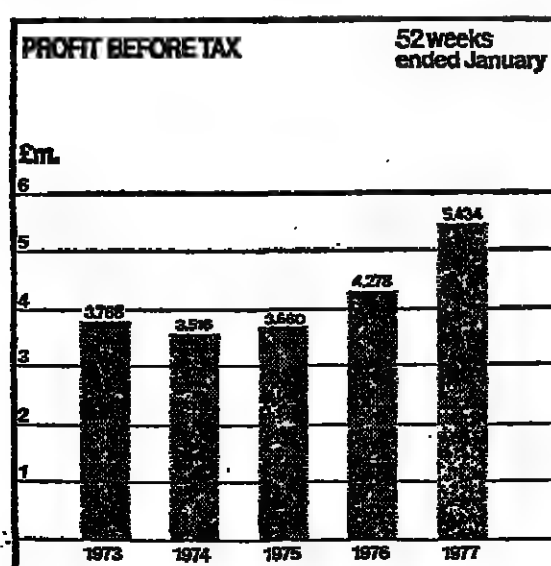
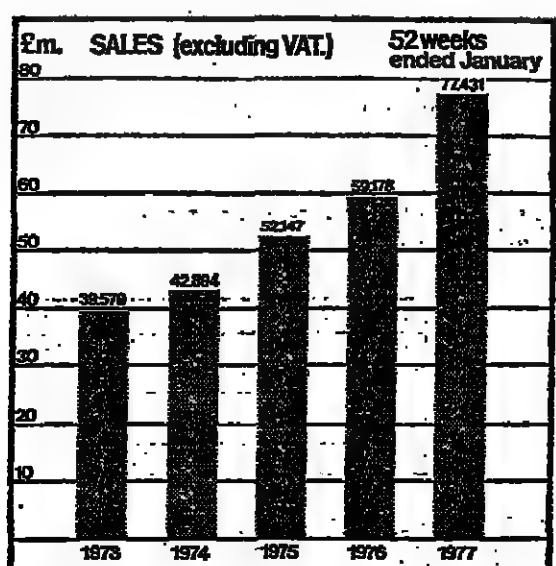
Speculation now centres on how Mr Posner will choose to interpret his terms of reference. Mr Varley, the Secretary of State for Industry, asked Mr Posner simply to "consider the assessment which led the Post Office, in November, 1976, to reduce the future levels of orders for telephone exchange equipment...".

Pretax profits exceed £5 million

- Sales for the 52 weeks ended 29th January 1977 increased by 31 per cent, and profits by 27 per cent. Compared with the 53 weeks to January 1976 the respective increases were 28 per cent, and 23 per cent.

- In the opening two months of the current financial year sales have increased by approximately one-third over last year. A continuing increase of sales in both value and volume is anticipated, thereby maintaining real growth.

Group Results	1977	1976	1976
	52 weeks £000	52 weeks £000	53 weeks £000
Sales (excluding VAT)	77,431	59,178	60,265
Net Profit Before Taxation	5,434	4,278	4,429
Net Profit After Taxation	2,622	2,011	2,082
Earnings per share	12.05p	9.94p	10.27p
Dividends			
Interim	1.53p		1.39p
Proposed final	1.80p		1.64p



Empire Stores

(Bradford) Limited

Deposits and Advances show substantial increases in a strong Balance Sheet

Lord Clydesmuir



The 28th Annual General Meeting of the Proprietors of the Bank of Scotland will be held on May 10 within the Head Office, Edinburgh. The following is an extract from the statement by the Governor of the Bank, The Rt. Hon. Lord Clydesmuir, K.T., C.B., M.B.E.

CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT

Last year I referred to the formulation of our Group strategy and mentioned particularly our having created the largest Scottish merchant bank—Bank of Scotland Finance Company Limited. In implementation of our plan to expand still further this merchant banking arm of the Group, we have promoted private legislation to transfer the entire business and undertaking of Bank of Scotland Finance Company Limited to The British Linen Bank which, since the merger of 1971, has been a dormant member of the Group. We believe that The British Linen Bank, with its long tradition of service to Scotland and with its capital increased to £8 million, will be ideally suited to its new function.

Our strategy also envisaged a substantial expansion of the activities of our International Division. The progress of that Division has lived up to expectations and we look forward with confidence to an increasingly significant contribution to profits from this source in the years ahead.

THE YEAR'S RESULTS

The Group's operating profit for the year is £27,330,000 which represents an increase of 28.7% over the previous year. After deduction of additional provision made last year and this year, our profit of £26,330,000 compares with £17,236,000 in 1976 and the improvement of £9 million has arisen mainly in our Clearing Bank operations, supported by excellent results from our finance house subsidiary, North West Securities Limited which from its leasing, instalment credit and hire purchase activities, earned a total of £8,587,000, an increase of £2,589,000 over the previous year. This is a magnificent achievement. In the merchant banking field, Bank of Scotland Finance Company Ltd., showed a material advance in profit at £1,958,000 compared with £1,470,000 last year. International Energy Bank continues to make sound progress. Our share of its profit increased from £145,000 to £278,000, and the total contribution from Associated Companies amounts to £444,000.

The Group pre-tax profit thus becomes £26,774,000 an increase of 53.3% over the previous year.

DIVIDEND

An interim dividend of 4.87p per £1 Capital Stock has already been paid and the Board are now recommending payment of a final dividend of 4.894p per £1, which is the maximum permissible under present regulations.

THE ECONOMY

It appeared in mid-1976 that the Government's counter-inflation policy was beginning to show results and that a single-figure inflation rate could be predicted with confidence. Alas, the slide in sterling has frustrated these expectations and as the higher costs of imports work their way through the economy the purchasing power of the pound in our pocket has started to decline more rapidly. The Trade Unions

deserve praise for their adherence to the terms of the Social Contract and the more discerning of their leaders are, I feel sure, anxious to see its life prolonged into a third stage, though perhaps on a more flexible basis to deal with differentials.

North Sea oil and gas developments have contributed materially to the relative strength of the Scottish economy up until now although it may be that, as a source of new jobs, these developments have passed their peak. It is estimated that this year half of the U.K. requirement will come from the North Sea wells and that by 1979 we shall be self-sufficient. It is providential that our fastening national economy should have such a stout prop but it is imperative, if our children's children are not to castigate us as a generation of profligates, that the oil revenues be treated as the lifeblood of the future and not dissipated in maintaining an artificially high standard of living.

LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS

I find it saddening that during this period of grave economic difficulty so much management time, thought and effort should have been diverted from the task of achieving greater efficiency, finding new products or markets and building up vital profitability to the study and application of many new and complex statutes. I have in mind, such enactments as the Consumer Credit Act, the Sex Discrimination Act, the Health and Safety at Work Act, the Employment Protection Act and the Social Security Pensions Act. I am not questioning the merits of these statutes but simply wish to make the point that there are limits to the ability of the business community to digest and apply new legislation.

Company boards and managements have also had to devote valuable time to assessing the implications of the Devolution Bill, the Bullock Report and, within the banking industry, proposals for nationalisation. As for the latter, it is not an exaggeration to say that no greater threat exists to continuance of the mixed economy. The banking system has been able since the last war to avoid varying Bank of England directives with flexibility and without causing widespread dislocation. That flexibility would inevitably be lost were the banks to become mere puppets of the State.

The personal customer would also suffer. Today competition between the banks for personal business is keen and that rivalry finds its most obvious expression in their standards of service and the variety of their charges. Who can seriously believe that after nationalisation that healthy state of affairs would continue?

SUMMARY OF GROUP RESULTS

Year ended 28th February	1977	1976
Group operating profit	£000's 27,330	£000's 21,236
Additional pension provision	1,000	2,000
Additional bad debt provision		2,000
Share of associated companies' profits	444	231
Group pre-tax profit	26,774	17,467
Profit attributable (after tax and extraordinary items)	12,058	9,434
Dividends also b	3,146	2,860



BANK OF SCOTLAND

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Reyrolle's switch of direction



Mr. Joseph Godber, chairman of Tricentral, a North American gas company.

So far as it is possible Reyrolle Parsons has been insulating itself against the effects of the lack of any United Kingdom programme of power station orders, either nuclear or conventional, but the enthusiasm which pushed up the shares to a new high for the year at 165p on a rise in the stock market, needs tempering with some caution.

For this year, at least, continued growth at the trading level seems assured. The question is whether by mid-1978, when the current load has worked through, Reyrolle will have done enough to avert a swing into losses.

Development work on switchgear over the past few years paid off last year and accounts for around half the growth in trading profits from £7.4m to £10.8m as exports grew to account for more than half the division's sales.

Despite the worldwide slack in power station building, the downstream lines continue to grow, and orders for switchgear continue to flow in while Reyrolle's motors and independent generators continue to prosper.

But even with two thirds of the business doing well, the key to future prosperity is still very much tied up with the power generation business. The profitable 1976 workload can be maintained in 1977 while cash continues to be built up. Retentions excluding a loan stock redemption of £6.5m, and other items, will be £6.5m, while only £1.5m is payable in the United Kingdom. Capital spending this year will only be £1.1m above the £3.1m depreciation charge.

There are some doubts as to whether 30 per cent of work-in-progress can continue to be financed by progress payments, but, after increasing liquidity by £7.4m and leaving cash of £5m at the year end, cash flow continues to be strong, and should be available to meet either the large redundancy payments in 1978 or increased turnover should the Government give the go-ahead to Drax B.

This year profits could be sustainable at the pre-tax as well as the trading level for although exchange gains from dollar contracts will be smaller than last year's £3.6m, interest charges should be lower. A yield of 9 per cent, however, on a fully retained dividend, is not such a bargain given the uncertainties, even though it is six times covered.

Final: 1976 (1975)
Capitalization £22m
Sales £163m (£127m)
Pre-tax profits £15.5m (£7.0m)
Earnings per share 60.7p (31.9p)
Dividend: gross 15p (10.6p)

Peasey
Underlying strengths
Revelations about Sir Eric Milner's management style at Peasey Property Corporation, along with the usual, but now recharged rumour of imminent takeover, tend to overshadow the figures filling the occasional space between auditors' qualification and chairman's statement in the 1976 accounts.

A glance at the figures reveals a rather less glamorous company than Sir Eric's flamboyant style might have implied. But 1976's pre-tax profits of £846,000 have been struck after the extraordinary charge of £282,000 for extraordinary reasons—plus a further £630,000 less covering provisions against the Lyons, Toulouse and Northamptonshire schemes. A sample valuation of the portfolio pro-

duced a £7m surplus, supporting an asset per share of over 70p. That asset backing, plus the impact on future years profits of the elimination of special provisions, added to the arrival of Barclays Merchant Bank as financial advisers to the board, ought to make either an attractive bid package or a sound and undervalued share of Peasey.

The joker in the pack remains Sir Eric. The scale of the financial problems which occurred during his reign are clear. But until it is evident whether he stays or goes the shares will remain purely speculative. If he stays, they will go back to being speculative anyway.

Tricentral Valuing the Thistle stake

After four years of declining profits, Tricentral has come back in fine style with almost quadrupled fourth quarter earnings boosting the full year 151 per cent to £2.48m.

For perspective, however, profits are still only half as much again as the 1972 peak, although that historic performance has precious little bearing on the shares now that Tricentral has developed into a fully-fledged second-line oil stock. It has proven North Sea discoveries (plus the spice of more to come in its fifth round concessions) and gas interests in the United States, which look certain to get a new lease of life after President Carter's energy measures tomorrow.

Just to go on what is known, a line drawn through Ashland's deal with Santa Fe throws up a value of £50m net of debt for Tricentral's Thistle stake, equivalent to 130p a share against a current share price of 138p. While small producer status alone has pushed up 1976 gas profits by £330,000, and retrospective price increases meant a £275,000 exceptional profit for 1976.

Meanwhile, the 1976 improvement has been spread equally between the North American oil and gas interests and recovery in the commercial division in the United Kingdom.

North American pre-interest profits, though marking time in the fourth quarter, rose 28 per cent to £2m during the year. Performance in the commercial division is still extremely patchy with losses in Malaysia, Austre-

lia and Canada up two-thirds to £556,000 offsetting the recovery in Holland and the United Kingdom but Canada is now apparently coming right and unless fresh management can turn Australia round the group will cut its losses there.

Tricentral has now taken the necessary steps to rectify its cash flow deficit of second time last year with the rights issue purchase of Ashland Investment Trust and sale of some of its North Sea interests bringing in £8.4m which will bridge the gap until Thistle starts to come through.

In the light of those sort of prospects, holders can afford to live with a yield of under 1 per cent and a sky-high p/e ratio of almost 25.

Final: 1976 (1975)
Capitalization £47.2m
Sales £72.5m (£56.1m)
Pre-tax profits £2.48m (£0.99m)
Earnings per share 5.6p (3.1p)
Dividend: gross 1.25p (—)

Empire Stores Gaining market share

Empire Stores (Bradford) sacrificed margins to market share in the first half of the year to the end of January, and whole margins were restored in the second six months, but certainly was not as the expense of market share. In fact sales in the second half rose by 41 per cent, more than double the industry average.

Of that rather more than half retained to volume. So in terms of its sales, at least, the group is already taking in the benefit of the expansion in the number of agencies which helped to knock profitability in the early part of last year. And since the group starts from a smaller base than either of its two independent mail order competitors (Freemans and Grattan's) it has room to maintain a high degree of growth into the current year.

However, even assuming that Empire can maintain the one third sales growth achieved in the first two months of this year, it is a moot point whether profits will grow commensurate rates. For a start profitability will be depressed this year, as last by some £300,000 in additional costs relating to doubling running on computerisation of the agency accounts.

In addition last year's £89,000 (down from £314,000) contribution from short-term deposits, now eroded by the expansion of working capital requirements, is not going to be repeated. As against this the most vigorous phase of agent recruitment is now over, so that the additional business generated by those already in operation should work through more directly into profit. But even if margins emerge from the year, on balance, more or less intact, there is a question over whether this will do anything much for the group's ratings.

It is true that Empire probably has more growth in it now than Freemans—which recorded a 29 per cent improvement in profits for the year just ended—and certainly has more growth in it than Grattan. But the yield at 114p (down 1p yesterday) is only 4.5 per cent. That is not much for shareholders to console themselves with while they wait for the great expansion of non-food retail sales which should start to work through in 1978.

Final: 1976/77 (1975/76)
Capitalization £24.8m
Sales £77.43m (£59.18m)
Pre-tax profits £5.43m (£4.28m)
Earnings per share 12.05p (9.94p)
Dividend: gross 5.12p (4.66p)

The day of the industrial relations codes will shortly arrive for fearful and complaining employers.

The codes on disciplinary practice and procedures, and on disclosure of information to trade union negotiators, have already been sent by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service to Mr. Albert South, Secretary of State for Employment. He has laid the former before Parliament, and both could come into effect in a couple of months.

The code on allowing time off for trade union activities is the subject of lively and difficult consultation, but may follow a month or two later. A fourth on collective bargaining procedures, including trade union recognition, will soon be in draft form.

The codes are not legally binding, but unless employers observe them, at least in the spirit, they are likely to find cases going against them in the hearing of industrial tribunals or the Central Arbitration Committee. When the codes on disclosure and time off have been approved by Parliament the relevant sections of the Employment Protection Act will be put into force.

When consultative drafts of the first three were published last year, they provoked immediate hostile reactions to both their tone and content from many employers' associations.

The Engineering Employers' Federation described them as "discipline as confused in expression. It urged that its provisions should be made less

onerous and rigidly applicable to smaller firms.

The local authority employers saw a fundamental defect in an apparent attempt to apply disciplinary rules not only to misconduct but also to inadequate performance.

The Confederation of British Industry said the draft on disclosure was more likely to give rise to conflict than to assist responsible collective bargaining. It listed five major shortcomings, partly concerned with form and emphasis but complaining particularly of vague references to the limited relevance of some kinds of information in particular circumstances.

The draft, the confederation said, did not reflect the essential balance between different sections of the Act, was one-sided and dealt inadequately with union responsibilities.

The EEF was concerned that the code should be used constructively and responsibly, not to disrupt existing bargaining patterns or to introduce unnecessary claims. Requests for information should have to be justified by the unions and the whole draft should be re-examined to make sure that it did not give the impression that union requests for information would always be justifiable and that employers would always try to limit disclosures.

Greatest indignation, however, was aroused by the consultative code on time off for union duties. The EEF described it as a potential recipe for conflict and loss of production; it treated union duties as inde-

Eric Wigham

pendent of the business aims of an enterprise; it could provide limitless scope for time off by giving union officials the sole right to decide how much was needed.

On the face of it, it is curious that the Council of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service, which has three employer members, should have approved without dissent the publication of the papers which aroused so much employer resentment. By and large the council sends consensus rather than majority decisions, though there have been votes from time to time, particularly on recognition issues.

There has been no vote on the draft codes. The employers have in any case little chance of getting a majority since the other six members consist of three from the TUC, General Council and three academics, of whom at least two are always likely to support the trade union point of view.

Moreover, they would be more conscious, than CBI members and other employers, that much that was distasteful was due to the Act itself rather than to the framing of the codes designed to interpret it. No doubt they thought that more was to be gained by leaving it to outside pressures from the CBI and other organisations to secure amendments

during the consultative process than by forcing an employer-union confrontation on the council.

If so, they have so far proved to be right.

The only code so far published in its final form, that on discipline, goes a long way to meet criticisms. Small employers have not been given blanket exclusion from the obligation to adopt disciplinary procedures but a sentence has been inserted in the first paragraph which says: "In the smaller establishments it may not be practicable to adopt all the detailed provisions, but most of the features listed could be adapted and incorporated into a simple procedure."

The references to standards of performance have been eliminated.

The final draft on disclosure, though not yet published, is known to have been reshaped and the balance altered by listing, near the beginning, the Act's restrictions on union rights to demand information.

There could well be a somewhat similar change of emphasis in the time off code, but this has proved particularly difficult because, while ACAS inquiries showed that present practice varies widely, many employers fear that large costs will result from giving paid time off for trade union duties and industrial relations training. In this code, perhaps even more than in the others, it is the terms of the Act, rather than the intentions of those who are the cause of complaint, which employers may be over-

anxious about the codes generally. The broad philosophy of industrial relations which they will embody goes little beyond that of the code of practice drawn up under the Conservative Industrial Relations Act of 1971 and retained by Labour until sections of it could be replaced by the new codes.

The old code is being elaborated, and a more detailed formulation places some additional responsibilities on the employer. The main difference, however, is that, in the case of disclosure and time off for union duties, the Employment Protection Act gives the unions enforceable legal rights.

To a degree, a legal obligation replaces a moral obligation. But those who fully observed the spirit of the Conservative Code are unlikely to find themselves in trouble. The codes will contribute to greater consistency in tribunals and CAC awards relating those parts of the Act.

What some employers feel after all the recent spate of legislation on industrial relations and discrimination, is that the establishment of a series of new codes is too much and too soon. The standing of the ACAS as an impartial tribunal may be damaged by its involvement in the enforcement of an Act which many consider one-sided. The Commission on Industrial Relations was killed by its involvement in Conservative law. It is a pity if ACAS is weakened by too much involvement in Labour law.

Why hotels are still changing hands

Some London hotels sold in the past year

Hotels	Date announced	Buyer	Seller	Price
The Dorchester	June '76	Arab-backed syndicate	Development Securities	£9m
Royal Kensington Hotel	July '76	Believed to be Arab backed	Magnum Group (in receivership)	£2.5m
Central City Hotel, Central Park Hotel, Baywater	July '76	Believed to be Arab backed	S & M Hotels (in receivership)	£1m plus
Cumberland Regent, Palace Strand Palace, Atrium, London Airport, 30 hotels in total (7 in London)	Nov '76	Trust Houses Forte	J. Lyons (Strand Hotels)	£27.6m
Westbury, London, plus 3 in United States	Jan '77	Trust Houses Forte	Knott Hotels Corporation (United States)	£3m
Skyline Park Tower, Knightsbridge	April '77	Sheraton (ITT)	Skyline Hotels	£4m
Skyline Hotel, Heathrow	April '77	Rangate, believed to be Arab backed	Adda International	£8m
London Embassy	April '77	Ind Coops-Hotels	Embassy Hotels (Hyde Park)	£3.8m

many hotel developers have had to leave on borrowed capital.

These and other factors, such as increasing wage costs, which hit this labour-intensive industry hard, the cost of conforming to the new fire precautions regulations and, above all, the drop in occupancy levels in 1974 and 1975 took the necessary charge per room then to nearer £2 per £1,000.

High investment costs and the inability to "earn an adequate return" are key points in the industry's plea for Treasury help to shape the extension to hotels of the building allowances given to manufacturing industry.

The argument is that the hotel business, an important part of the economy, will not be able to accommodate future customers unless it can build more hotel rooms and modernise its old ones.

So far the plea has fallen on deaf ears. The relief hoped for by the industry was not offered, but Mr. Clive Derby, chief executive of the British Hotels, Restaurants, and Caterers Association, says that the association is continuing to press the case.

As things stand there are, not surprisingly, no new hotels under construction in London and none in the planning pipe-

line. With the expected high occupancy rates for the foreseeable future—the signs are typical. Having been best with delays and problems since starting the project in 1974, Adda eventually was forced to buy out the leasehold interest when the developer failed in 1974.

The group, which reported a pre-tax loss of £1.2m for 1974, reduced to £244,530 in 1975, was not greatly pleased at having to finance the extra outgoing "as best they could" and took the first sensible opportunity to get rid of the burden.

J. Lyons, which had incurred large borrowings overseas to finance expansion projects in the late 1960s and early 1970s, needed the proceeds from the sale of its Strand Hotels because the devaluation of sterling made the borrowing costs unmanageable.

A large number of hoteliers were unable to weather their

difficulties and went into liquidation. It is estimated that some 3,000 hotels, mostly small ones, closed in 1975. Some were converted into self-catering flats; a few into clinics.

Hackney Council spent £675,000 last December on buying the Alexandra National Hotel in Finsbury Park, London, from The Rank Organisation. Since then, it has approved a scheme to convert the hotel into flats at a cost of a further £68,000.

Other hotels (and even more flat owners) found eager buyers in Arab investors anxious to relaunch some of their recently boosted oil wealth, the most spectacular Arab purchase being the Dorchester Hotel last summer. This hotel was always much admired and well patronized by distinguished Arab guests. More recently Arab approaches, however, have been reported for The Tower hotel, the one London hotel retained under J. Lyons ownership, and for the still unfinished Spanish-owned Meila hotel, which like the Tower has a site by the Thames.

The hotel business has had a severe shaking in the last five years and it will take some time for the dust to settle. After having their fingers badly burnt over property many hotel groups are opting out of development, altogether, and confining their activities to hotel management. At the same time new development investment, if not from the hoteliers then from some other source, is urgently needed if the 65,000 new hotel bedrooms which the Hotels and Caterers' Economic Development Committee says are needed by 1985 are to be built. The recent changes of owner contribute only by keeping existing hotels in business.

Patricia Tisdall

Business Diary: Leading lady • Baughan for ECGD

Miriam Stoppard, a Briton, has become the highest-ranking woman executive in the Syntex Corporation, an American maker of "the Pill". She is to succeed John Munson as managing director of Syntex Pharmaceuticals, the Maidenhead-based British subsidiary.

Dr Stoppard is well-known as a medical journalist, particularly through science programmes for children's television. Munson's predecessor, David Moreau, was a spare-time novelist and left to write full-time.

Munson has been promoted to responsibility for the Californian group's subsidiaries and joint venture companies in Europe and Africa.

Dr Stoppard joined Syntex in 1968 and became deputy man-

aging director last year. She was formerly senior research manager at the University of Bristol. She is married to the playwright, Tom Stoppard.

Switchover

Michael Baughan, an assistant director at Lazards, is to help out the Export Credits Guarantee Department, which is preparing to switch from financing to financing in dollars.

On the one hand, ECGD has had to explain to anxious exporters how the new system will operate and on the other it has quickly had to familiarise itself with dollar financing techniques that it never needed to bother with before.

Lazards has always been closely involved in export business. It claims some responsibility for the creation of the buyer credit system and is the most active of the merchant banks in the field of ECGD business.

In the past the department's loans have been fairly straightforward affairs, involving usually a single merchant bank as a clearing bank. Under the new scheme announced last year, a number of foreign banks will be drawn into the lending net, funds will be raised in the Eurodollar interbank market, lending rates will be fixed in relation to the prevailing dollar rates and frequently big deals will be syndicated.



Hollowood

"Disraeli was right. There are two nations—the index-linked and the rest."

On the hop

Some time after most of the American banking establishment—the blue-blooded New York investment banking house Morgan Stanley has also decided to set up a London branch, and hitherto dealt with through New York.

This, the bank says, does not mean a move from Paris, Morgan's European base since 1967, and two of the three joint managing directors, Archibald Cox, junior, and John W. Hyland, are likely to spend much of their time commuting between the two.

The third, Jonathan Agnew, may, however, be a Londoner. The London opening marks a large extension of the bank's European operations. For a start, the bank, mainly known for its placing power with new issues, is entering the secondary market in Eurobonds and those London for this debut with an eye to the supply of trained people and the City's good communications.



Hollowood

"Disraeli was right. There are two nations—the index-linked and the rest."

Capitalist swine

More than 600 pigs left Stansford Airport, Essex, for Angola in one aircraft yesterday. It is said to have been the biggest pig consignment to be flown from Britain.

Their departure was reason for jubilation in the Cotswold Pig Development Company, which sold them to the Neto government in a package deal worth £150,000. Cotswold is an arm of the Nickerson cereal group, based in the Lincolnshire Wolds. It already has export links with Portugal, the former ruler of Angola.

After arriving at Luanda the pigs, all breeding stock, are to be shared between two state

farms: Julian Leeds, Cotswold Cereals, and Michael Eastwood, assigned to the production director, will stay with them for a fortnight.

Raymond Alexander, export manager for Cotswold, said yesterday that he would follow in a month.

He made it clear that the company expects the deal to lead to further business. "In addition to the right type of pigs," he said, "Cotswold is able to provide scientific and technical services, plus the marketing back-up the Angolans wanted."

Whistle stops

Britain's holiday areas are among the "whistle stops" the council according to the latest liquor licensing statistics for England and Wales from the Home Office. In the Isle of Wight there are 64 "on" and "off" licenses per 10,000 head of population, or, put another way, for every 156 inhabitants there is a pub, club, hotel or off-licence.

Thereafter the league table, in descending order, reads like a tourist guide through England with Cornwall, Devon, North Yorkshire, Cumbria and Somerset all featuring prominently. Even in the temperance stronghold of Wales, Dyfed, North and Powsell, all rural-cum-holiday areas, have one liquor retailer for every 220 people.

The national average for England and Wales is one licence for 431 people but city dwellers are most likely to find themselves cramped for elbow room. Manchester, for example, has a licence for every 433 people, and London a measly one for 527.

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Glenlivet '76

Distillers, blenders and bottlers of Scotch Whisky.
Exporters of The Glenlivet, Glen Grant, Queen Anne, Something Special and other Scotch Whiskies throughout the world.
Iain Tennant, Chairman of The Glenlivet Distillers Limited, covered the following points in his review of the year to 31st December 1976.

Results
The improvement in group performance has been maintained. Turnover has increased by 35% and profit before tax is up by 64%, due largely to increased sales volume and to better margins, particularly overseas.

The Future
In spite of economic and political problems, the whisky industry will go from strength to strength provided it can achieve a reasonable return on its investment. It is vital that prices rise to reflect the much higher costs of the whisky in stock and of the increasing quantities which must continue to be laid down. Providing nothing untoward happens during the next twelve months and we can achieve our 1977 sales target, we hope further to improve the performance of the company, although we do not anticipate such a marked increase in profit as there was in 1976.

	Year to 31.12.76	Year to 31.12.75
Profit before tax	£3,364,000	£2,183,000
Ordinary Dividend per share	3.965p	3.801p

The Glenlivet Distillers Limited

A copy of the annual report and accounts can be obtained from the Secretary, 45 Frederick Street, Edinburgh EH2 1YG.

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Boddingtons Breweries Ltd Manchester

SEVENTH RECORD YEAR

In his statement for the year ended 31st December 1976, the Chairman, Mr. Ewart Boddington makes the following points:

- *Both sales and profits were a record for the seventh year in succession.
- *Turnover is up 40.6% from £10,817,274 in 1975 to £14,931,014 in 1976. Pre-tax profits are up 36.8% from £2,127,000 to £2,906,000.
- *During the year total sales in volume increased by 22.5% and Boddingtons' own beer sales increased by 25%.
- *A major expansion of production capacity is under way and will be completed by mid-1978.
- *Net Current Assets increased from £343,000 in 1975 to £1,206,000 in 1976 of which £950,000 was raised by the Rights' Issue in May.
- *The proposed final dividend for the year of 1.5p per share makes a total for the year of 3.5p per share (1975: 1.8888p per share), the maximum permitted by agreement with the Treasury at the time of the Rights' Issue in May 1976.

Annual General Meeting, Board Room, Manchester Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ship Canal House, King Street, Manchester, 12 noon, Tuesday, 10th May, 1977.

Copies of the Annual Report may be obtained from: The Company Secretary, PO Box No 331, Strangeways Brewery, Manchester M16 3EL.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Pay policy worries cloud equities

Though the March trade figures were a little better than most City estimates, market sentiment was overshadowed by pay-policy worries which were heightened by Jack Jones's weekend remarks.

Light profit-taking in the first two hours set the pattern of the day, with prices never recovering from this early setback. By 11 am, the FT Index was 3.6 lower and though many leading industrial stocks firmed a penny or two thereafter, it was still 7.4 off at 409.1 by the close.

In the gulf-edged market, strong, early selling brought

Some of the biggest losses came among the "blue chip" equities, where ICI at 348p, Fisons 330p and Unilever 448p all lost 5p and Glaxo were lowered 5p to 460p.

With general trading almost at a standstill at times, there were a number of speculative features. The more prominent included Mysen, up 4p to 58p, Savoy "A", which rose 5p to 50p, Aarvick Brothers, where profits were accompanied by talk of terms from a Dutch group with the shares rising 7p to 64p and A. Monk which gained 4p to 67p.

SPR Investments shot up 7p to 110p after a bid from Wedgwood which gave up 8p to 170p in spite of dividend and profit forecasts. A denial of merger talk left Hunting Associated unchanged at 128p and Hunting Gibben 2p to the gold at 178p, after touching 180p earlier.

In the stores sector, mail-order house Empire Stores fell a penny to 114p in spite of profits which were above most estimates. Sears Holdings, facing the prospect of an inquiry into the footwear industry, lost a couple of pence to 38p while others in retreat were Gosh "A" 5p to 215p, Debenhams 4p to 79p and British Home Stores which gave up 4p to 189p.

Shares to succumb to profit-taking were Smiths Industries, off 4p to 137p, Yarrow lower by 7p to 193p and Gray's Wharf which lost 5p for a close of 100p. Issues to benefit from comment were JB Holdings at 47p, Westward TV at 19p and Kinnaird at 96p.

BSR, where there is 95 per cent of the rights shares have been taken up, were 4p off at 113p. Reynolds Parsons scored 5p to 165p after figures above most estimates, but Decca "A" lost 5p

to 285p and Thera "A" 4p to 258p.

In the financial sector, the weakest of the clearing banks were Barclays, down 5p to 245p, and Midland 4p to 278p. The performance of the gilt market hit some of the discount houses with Seacombe Marshall off 10p to 230p, Gerrard & National 5p to 143p and Union 5p to 335p.

Among merchant banks in retreat were Hambros 4p to 154p, Guinness First lost 5p for a close of 170p.

With interest rates now close to the bottom of their cycle, property shares came under some pressure with Hammerson "A" losing 8p to 397p and both Land Securities 162p and Great Portland 208p lower by 4p.

Including the troublesome Canadian business, there is a wide range of profit forecasts for Hawker Siddeley whose full-year profits are due today. Most estimates are pitched between £80m and £90m, against £65.5m. Solid progress is expected in the electrical and mechanical engineering business but borrowings on the aerospace side, now nationalised, introduce a note of uncertainty. The shares slipped 10p to 510p.

Equity turnover on April 15 was £62.2m (12,559 bargains). According to Exchange Telegraph, active stocks yesterday were ICI, GKN new, and old, Lloyds Bank, BAT Dtd, Marks & Spencer, Disasters, GEC, Glaxo, Unilever, National Westminster, Scottish & Newcastle, Adda International, Boveri, Becham, Aarvick Bros, Gallen, Kamp, Reynolds Parsons, RTZ, Savoy "A" and SPR Investments.

Latest dividends

Company (and par value)	Ord div	Year ago	Pay date	Year's total	Prev year
Brit Empire Secs (5p) Int	0.15	0.14	6/5	0.53	0.52
Danish Bacon (21p) Fin	3.93	3.25	19/3	7.43	6.75
Empire Stores (25p) Fin	1.8	1.6	15/6	3.33	3.03
Geest Bros (10p) Fin	1.53	1.37	31/5	2.26	2.18
Stanley Gibbons (25p) Fin	1.44	1.37	9/6	2.74	2.57
Wester (35p) Fin	1.8	1.6	1/7	5.6	5.19
London Union Int (5p) Fin	1.88	1.71	8/6	3.76	3.42
Reed Executive (5p) Fin	2.0	1.2	1/6	3.0	4.43
Reverex Chemicals	3.1	2.82	2/7	4.85	4.42
Reynolds Parsons (1p) Fin	5.25	7.0	10/6	9.75	7.0
Tricentrol (25p) Fin	0.73p	0.45	30/3	1.35p	—
Walker & Home (5p) Int	0.45	0.43	30/3	0.59	0.53
West & Sons (5p) Fin	0.59	0.53	1/7	—	—
W. Lyle (25p) Int	2.0	1.0	1/7	—	—
W. Tyack, Sons (25p) Int	6.62	1.25	—	—	—
Unilever (35c) Int	22.51	8p	—	—	20p
Twentieth Cent (50c) Int	47p	5p	—	—	25p

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pound per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividend figures are shown on gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.54. *Declared gross. †Cents per share. ‡Adjusted for scrip.

Wedgwood follows the road for dividend raising in £4.7m bid

By Ray Maughan
Wedgwood, the Staffordshire-based pottery and glassware group, is taking the cheap route around the dividend-raising rights issue queue, with an agreed cash-and-paper bid worth £4.7m for SPR Investments, formerly San Paulo (Brazilian) Railway, where Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, Mr A. E. Ball and Mr F. A. Butcher currently represent Lohr's 29.63 per cent holding.

In order to reduce stamp duty SPR intends to throw a one-for-three capitalization issue after which Wedgwood will offer seven ordinary shares and 15p cash for every 40 SPR Wedgwood shares dropped 8p to 170p in difficult market conditions yesterday so that the paper offer is equivalent to 120p per existing SPR share. The offer has been underwritten at 165p per Wedgwood share to give a cash alternative to SPR shareholders equivalent to 117p for each existing SPR share, which matches the trust's current net asset value.

Lohr, represented by its subsidiary Anglo-Ceylon & General Estates, has indicated that it will accept the cash offer and will vote for the share-splitting proposal.

It was generally accepted in the market yesterday that Wedgwood will not be the last to use this dividend-raising avenue. Underwriters are happier with the acquisition of physical assets—SPR is virtually a self-edged shell—and it is therefore possible to get the price "tighter" to the prevailing market price.

The cash alternative is underwritten at a 3 per cent discount to the current market price which might be contrasted with conventional rights issues which provided a discount of 17 per cent at GKN and an effective discount of around 21 per cent at Lex Service Group.

Treasury permission has been obtained by Wedgwood to raise its gross total dividend from 8.45p to 10.3p per share for the year to April 2 next. At the same time, the board headed by Sir Arthur Bryan, chairman of Wedgwood,



Sir Arthur Bryan, chairman of Wedgwood.

year to April 2 next. At the same time, the board headed by Sir Arthur Bryan, chairman of Wedgwood, is forecasting a £600,000 pre-tax profit improvement for the year to £7.6m.

The basis of computing stocks and work-in-progress as set out in SSAP 9 of the Institute of Chartered Accountants has not been followed in either the estimate or results shown for the year to April 3, 1976.

Disclosures on 5pc stakes begin to trickle

By Nicholas Hirst
Disclosures under the 1976 Companies Act, a major part of which came into force yesterday, started to trickle into the Stock Exchange yesterday.

But with a full 14 working days grace in which to comply, many more can be expected to arrive in the next couple of weeks.

The Act reduces the size of stake which must be declared in a public company from ten to 5 per cent. Holders of such stakes at the date the Act came into force have 14 days in which to declare. But all new holdings must be declared within five days.

None of yesterday's declarations were particularly noteworthy. Mr Terry Maher revealed he held 7.1 per cent of his master investment company, Pentos.

The Act also caught two stakes of more than five per cent in the small Horace Cory & Co—Mr D. Bass has 6.8 per cent and Mrs E. Grimsheaw 5.7 per cent.

Greens Economist has been notified of shareholdings of 5 per cent or more. ITC Pension Trust, 50,000 shares, Sun Alliance & London Assurance 430,000, Scottish American Investment 518,050, P. S. Garrett and R. Garner 620,422, and S. L. Green 1.22 million.

Petroleum announced that Mr R. Atkinson holds 7.1 per cent and Negretti & Zambra announced that Jacobus Holdings had informed it of a 7.6 per cent holding. Negretti went further and said that with the exception of directors they were not aware of any other party with a holding of between 5 and ten per cent. And, finally, the Henry Trust has declared a 7.1 per cent holding in G. T. Japan Investment Trust.

While the stakes so far revealed have had little investment impact, others in the pipeline may have more effect. The stock market is watching carefully for Arab interests.

Royal, Commercial Union are travelling well

Two composite insurance groups, including the biggest are peddling up the insurance cycle this year.

Commercial Union Assurance turned round in 1976 from £10.2m of losses to £47.3m of pre-tax profits and shareholders were told at yesterday's annual meeting by Sir Francis Sandilands, chairman, that there should be a further improvement this year. The forecast depends on economics, politics and catastrophes.

The annual statement of Mr Daniel Meinertzhagen, chairman of Royal Insurance is equally confident. He thinks that the steps taken in recent years have raised the quality of business.

The chairman also points out that the group had in many parts of the world converted operations from branches into locally established domestic companies.

Stanley Gibbons tops £1m

By Ashley Draker
Full-time results of Stanley Gibbons International, the stamps and magazines group, justify the buoyancy of Mr A. L. Michael, chairman, at the half-year mark in September. At that time no headway was made with record business at £230,000. But for the whole of 1976 taxable earnings topped £1m for the first time with a 36 per cent rise to £1.31m. This is easily a best-ever.

The increase was achieved on turnover some £2m higher, at

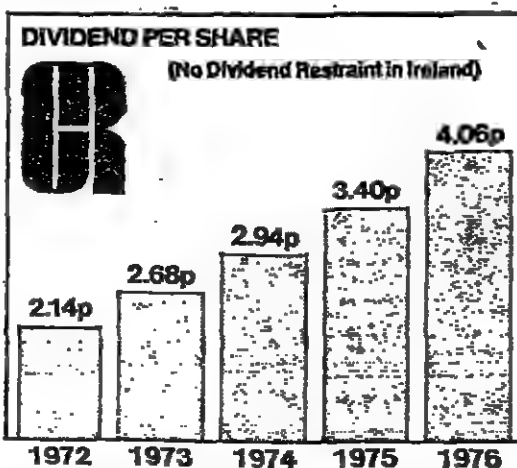
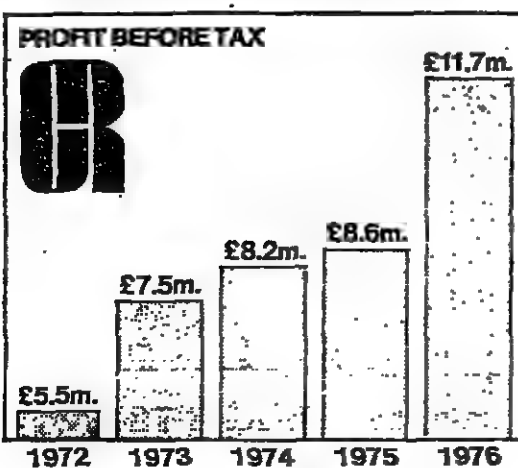
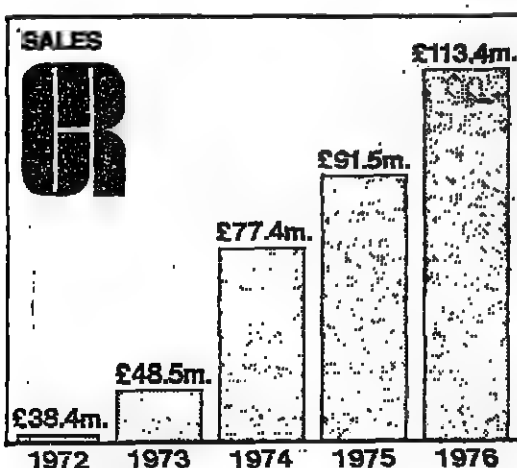
£9.19m compared with £7.05m. This justifies the chairman's optimism in late September that prospects for turnover were "excellent". Early in the final stage, in August, traditionally a quiet month with no auction sales, the rest of the group did record business at £230,000. But for the whole of 1976 taxable earnings topped £1m for the first time with a 36 per cent rise to £1.31m. This is easily a best-ever.

The increase was achieved on turnover some £2m higher, at

ings a share improved from £5.3p to 20p. It pays a total dividend lifted from 4.1p gross to 4.22p.

Stamps remain the leading contributor to profits and turnover contributing about 44 per cent to turnover. Albums and catalogues bring in about 13 per cent to turnover, auctions some 20 per cent and office supplies around 13 per cent. Other sectors are magazine sales and advertising bringing in 3 per cent, banknotes and coins some 7 per cent.

Cement-Roadstone Ireland's biggest Industrial Company



Extracts from Chairman's Statement, Michael J. Dargan.
The Group's profit at £11,661,000, an increase of 34.7% over 1975, represents a fine performance by management and employees. The increase was influenced by substantially lower interest costs, by a significant increase in the contribution from our overseas interests, and by the buoyancy of the agricultural sector in Ireland.

Return on Capital
The Board is implementing a programme for improvement, the pace of which represents a balancing exercise between long term strengths and more short term returns. Our very large investments in strategically placed, geographically-bearing lands and in technology such as the Platin development and our Belgard Quarry, underpin a future of expansion, but do not in the short term show themselves so well in the rate of return.

Platin Cement Plant Extension
We embarked in 1974 on our Platin cement plant extension and its enormous capital outlay of some £40m. It is still within the approved capital budget and projected programme for completion before the end of this year. We undertook this Platin outlay so that we would be amongst the most efficient manufacturers in Europe and our timing has turned out to be good, indeed better than we could have foretold.

	1976	% Change
Sales	£113.4m.	+23.9
Profit before Tax	£11.7m.	+34.7
Earnings per Share	11.22p.	+32.5
Dividend per Share	4.06p.	+19.5
Dividend Cover (Times)	2.62	
Capital Expenditure	£19.4m.	+29.1

Diverse Activities
Our trading profits this year were supported by substantial improvement in performance by our interests abroad and by increased exports from Ireland. Our Dutch company, Van Nierbos, returned a satisfactory increase in

profits and offers a beach head for future development. Forciter in England, with the success of its latest plant at Shepton Mallet, has brought in its best ever profit. Our mining investment in Cyprus has earned a substantially enhanced return. We increased our exports by 34% and now serve some eleven countries.

Investment
It is axiomatic that growth of business and therefore growth in employment can come only from investment. Since 1970 we in Cement-Roadstone have expended £7.9m. In the current year we will not be less than £10m. Unless we are enabled to earn a reasonable profit and an adequate return on our investments, commensurate with the risk, we will have neither the ability nor the will to invest.

Finance
We are in a strong financial position, with the ratio of Debt to Shareholders' Funds at a modest 24.3%. This, together with our substantial cash flow and already arranged large unused borrowing facilities, ensures that we can quickly take up investment opportunities.

Outlook
Your Board and management are dedicated to enhancing profitability. We aim at a pattern of steady advancement.

Cement-Roadstone Holdings Limited

Copies of Annual Report available on request from the Secretary, 19 Lower Pembroke Street, Dublin 2.

Scotland Bk deposits up to £1,352m

Current accounts and deposits of the Bank of Scotland increased from £1,131m to £1,352m in the year to end-February. Within that total the group's foreign currency deposits rose about 50 per cent to form some one sixth of the total.

Of advances to customers, up from £756m to £879m, about a quarter relates to medium-term lending. Fixed assets at year-end were up from £60m to £63m. Reflecting the building of the new computer centre, year-end commitments rose from £3.43m to £4.42m.

RAINE/SHEPHERD BRICK
Board of Raine Engineering announced that offer of March 17 for ordinary of Sheffield Brick extended until Friday. Acceptances received for 41,000 ordinary (5.17 per cent of shares to which offer relates).

BEAVERBROOK NEWS
Trustees of the Beaverbrook Foundation bought 1,400 ordinary shares of Beaverbrook Newspapers on March 25 and 15,000 ordinary shares of Beaverbrook Newspapers on March 31. Directors of Beaverbrook involved as trustees are: Sir Isaac Newton, Sir E. G. Stavros, Mr A. Henderson, Sir Maxwell Aitken and Mr J. Junor.

SIME COTTS HOLDINGS
"Simold Plant Holdings" subsidiary, Consolidated Plantations, has sold its investment in Highlands & Lowlands, reducing the Sime interest to less than 10 per cent. Its remaining interest is held through Seafield Amalgamated Rubber.

RAMPTON GOLD
Under agreement with Pacific Copper and others, Rampton Areas Australia is to buy 30 per cent equity interest in a wolfram mining joint venture at Torrington, NSW for \$425,000.

AMC REDUCES RATES
Agricultural Mortgage Corporation reports that lending rates of interest for all new loans completed on or after April 19 will be reduced from 17 to 14 per cent for variable rate loans and from 16 to 14 per cent for fixed rate loans.

Amax veto planned

Amax Incorporated has informed Copper Range that it will probably veto its 20 per cent CR holding against the proposed merger into Louisiana Land Exploration. The Amax move threatens another merger disappointment for CR.

One informed source said that it is probable that CR directors will begin manoeuvres soon to try to save the share-exchange proposal by winning a renegotiation of terms—AP-Dow Jones.

Pfizer growth
Pfizer Incorporated, the United States pharmaceutical company, expects an impressive rate of growth in sales and earnings as the year progresses, the president, Mr Gerald Laubach, told the annual meeting. He said the company planned to spend about \$100m (about £38.8m) on research and development this year. Pfizer at present has some new pharmaceuticals at advanced stages—Reuter.

B F Goodrich
B. F. Goodrich, the American tyre group, expects to see a continuation of the first quarter earnings' trend during the rest of the year if general economic conditions remain good, the chairman, Mr Fendleton Thomas, states. The company is particularly encouraged by improvements in the largest of its three lines of business—tyres and related products—where operating income rose significantly in the first quarter—Reuter.

Salzgitter fears loss
The West German State-owned steel and shipping concern Salzgitter AG's 1976-77 group result is expected to be worse than in the previous year. It then had a break-even balance sheet result only after drawing on DM50m (about

£12m) of open reserves. The result is expected to depend on group steel sales, where Salzgitter is proceeding "very cautiously" because there is still no sign of a genuine change in the market's difficult position—Reuter.

Jardine Matheson slips
Jardine Matheson, the Hong-kong-based international trading company, announces that its earnings after tax for the year ended December 31 of £8.4m (HK\$16.6m) showed a decrease of 18.7 per cent compared with 1975. It has been recommended that the dividend for 1976 be maintained at HK\$0.20.

Transam hopeful
Transamerica, the diversified services corporation of San Francisco, states that first quarter results should establish foundation for improved 1977 earnings. It said that all subsidiaries contributed to higher earnings with Occidental Life, the largest subsidiary, reporting record first-quarter results. Its net income rose to \$12.7m (£7.4m) on a turnover of \$307.6m—Reuter.

MKU finance needs
Mary Kathleen Uranium must be allowed price increases by May 31 if it is to remain viable, Mr Frank Eppie, chairman, told the annual meeting. This, plus a consultant's report were necessary to justify further funds being provided—Reuter.

NCR up 26 per cent
Net income of NCR Corporation in the first quarter of 1977 rose by 26 per cent to \$16.6m or 61 cents a share. This compares with \$13.22m or 54 cents a share.
Last year's first-quarter net income included a non-recurring benefit of \$5.6m or 23 cents a share. Revenues for the quarter showed a 9 per cent

FINANCIAL NEWS

Dearer gold too late to rescue first quarterlies

By Ronald Pullen

The March gold quarterlies did not off to their expected uninspiring start yesterday with results from the Barlow Rand and Gold Fields camps.

The latest recovery in the bullion price came too late to affect the March results and the price received by the mines averaged around \$131 an ounce compared with the \$122 industry average of the preceding quarter.

The December quarter's black labour shortages were only partly made good in the March period although full complements from end-February and the possibility of an extra shift being introduced should see a marked improvement in the current quarter.

As the mill throughput slightly down on the last quarter in the majority of cases, it meant working profits marking time at best and in some of the more marginal operations sharply lower.

Gold Fields mines look to have bore the brunt of the labour shortage with production at West Driefontein, Doornfontein and Venterspost falling 6.8 per cent.

Despite the sharp rise in costs at West Driefontein, a slightly improved grade has offset the fall in mill throughput and working profits were down only R23m to R225m.

Of the Barlow Rand mines, Harmony has done particularly well to double gold working profits to R336m despite a marginal reduction in mill throughput, and uranium profits, which fell down on the previous quarter's R14.8m, were better than expected.

For the rest, old stagers like East Rand Proprietary Mines, and Durban Deep despite holding production levels are suffering declining grades and rising costs all the time and will need the June quarter's rise in the gold price to staunch their ever-rising losses.

Insurance leads way as London United doubles

The "further advance in profits" forecast half-time by London United Investments for 1976 turns out to be a 100 per cent jump to a record £17.3m pre-tax. Turnover was 64.8 per cent up at £22.2m.

As forecast, it pays a total raised from 5.26p to 5.79p gross. Earnings per share rose from 6.34p to 12.15p.

Insurance continued its upward trend, though all sections showed substantial progress.

Hestair on target

A 29 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, a 17 per cent improvement in turnover and a 49 per cent increase in exports came from Hestair. In the year to January 31, turnover rose from £45.32m to £53.43m and pre-tax profits from £3.11m to £4.01m compared with the forecast of £4m made at the time of the Spear & Jackson bid. Total dividend up from 4.92p to 6.63p.

Reed Executive slip

Sales of Reed Executive to January 1 slipped from £11.7m to £11.2m and pre-tax profits from £202,000 to £204,000. The total dividend in turn is cut from 6.82p to 4.62p. The board states that improvement shown in the second-half continued through the first quarter of the current year. It looks to a "sound" first-half performance.

Harris & Sheldon

The auditors' report in the 1976 accounts of Harris & Sheldon Group is qualified. The auditors say that the extraordinary items shown in the profit and loss account include £127,000, which after taking into account tax of £66,000, amount to £61,000, which are not "extraordinary items" as defined in SSAP No 6. The pre-tax profit against which these

Business appointments

Changes at Pilkington

Mr L. N. Wall and Mr J. Leighton-Boyes are to become deputy chairmen of Pilkington Brothers Ltd. Mr W. T. Bird, executive vice-chairman, retires from full-time executive work. Mr Bird will remain a director. The post of executive vice-chairman will cease to exist from that date. Dr R. S. Oliver and Mr G. N. Hey are to join the board from July 1. Mr Kenneth Corle, a director of Plantation Holdings, is to succeed Mr S. W. Livesey as chairman on July 1. Mr Livesey will remain a director.

Following the resignation through ill-health of Mr A. Lebus, Mr K. P. Bennett has been named deputy chairman of Harris Lebus in addition to being managing director. Mr R. G. Willmott becomes finance director as well as company secretary.

Mr John Halbert has been appointed chairman of Associated British Machine Tool Makers (Holdings) while remaining group managing director.

Mr D. A. Crockett has become deputy chairman and Mr R. P. Bollow group managing director of Johnson Group Cleaners. Mr J. Crockett remains chairman.

Mr J. D. Hanson, treasurer of British Aircraft Corporation, has been made treasurer of British Aerospace. Mr R. D. Smith, financial company secretary of Hawker Siddeley Aviation becomes financial controller of British Aerospace. Mr D. W. Allen, executive director (Brough) of Hawker Siddeley Aviation, will be made chief internal auditor of British Aerospace from May 1.

Mr Denis Tabor has been appointed deputy chairman and managing director of Barclays Australia.

Mr Bryden Henderson, Mr Alexander Stratton and Mr Duncan McDermid have joined the main board of Reed & Smith (Holdings).

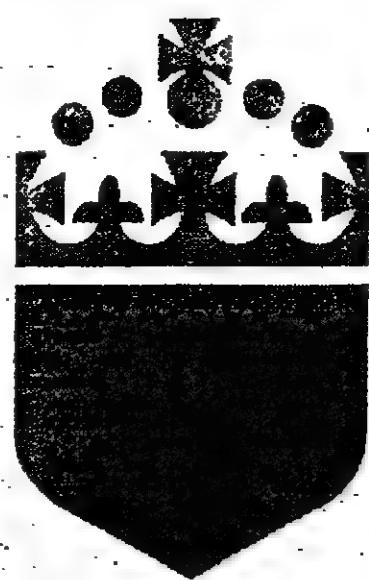
Mr J. E. Searle has been named chief manager, London of The Commercial Banking Co of Sydney to succeed Mr I. S. Mackenzie, who returns to Australia in June as chief manager, managing director's department, head office, Sydney.

Mr Miriam Stoppard has been appointed managing director of Syntex Pharmaceuticals, succeeding Mr John Munson.

Mr Nigel Hudson has been promoted senior vice-president and general manager of the London branch of First National Bank in Dallas.

Eurobond prices (midday indicators)

US \$ STRAIGHTS	Bid	Offer	US \$ STRAIGHTS	Bid	Offer
Australia 9 1982	102 1/2	103 1/2	Canada 9 1982	102 1/2	103 1/2
Belgium 9 1982	102 1/2	103 1/2	France 9 1982	102 1/2	103 1/2
Denmark 9 1982	102 1/2	103 1/2	Germany 9 1982	102 1/2	103 1/2
Finland 9 1982	102 1/2	103 1/2	Italy 9 1982	102 1/2	103 1/2
France 9 1982	102 1/2	103 1/2	Japan 9 1982	102 1/2	103 1/2
Germany 9 1982	102 1/2	103 1/2	Netherlands 9 1982	102 1/2	103 1/2
Italy 9 1982	102 1/2	103 1/2	Spain 9 1982	102 1/2	103 1/2
Japan 9 1982	102 1/2	103 1/2	Sweden 9 1982	102 1/2	103 1/2
Netherlands 9 1982	102 1/2	103 1/2	Switzerland 9 1982	102 1/2	103 1/2
Spain 9 1982	102 1/2	103 1/2	UK 9 1982	102 1/2	103 1/2
Sweden 9 1982	102 1/2	103 1/2	US 9 1982	102 1/2	103 1/2
Switzerland 9 1982	102 1/2	103 1/2			
UK 9 1982	102 1/2	103 1/2			
US 9 1982	102 1/2	103 1/2			



Royal Insurance

Salient points from Mr. Daniel Meinertzhagen's Statement

The Annual General Meeting of the Royal Insurance Company Limited will be held on Wednesday 11th May, in Liverpool. The following extracts are from a statement by the Chairman, Mr. Daniel Meinertzhagen, sent to stockholders with the 131st Annual Report and Accounts.

RESULTS FOR 1976

Despite the many problems that continue to confront us, we were able to show a considerable increase in the profit before tax, the final result being a profit of £78.1m compared with £32.7m in 1975.

The underwriting result was a loss of £17.8m which compared with the loss of £32.4m in 1975. The substantial improvement in underwriting was achieved, not only in the United States but also in other major territories overseas. Canada showed a marked improvement and in Australia the previous year's substantial recovery was extended into a welcome return to underwriting profitability. In Europe the adverse experience continued to be due to difficult conditions in the Netherlands but elsewhere overseas there was in total a satisfactory level of profit.

For the first time in some years the United Kingdom had an underwriting loss—a very small one—which having regard to the exceptional amount of claims arising from the violent storms which took place in January 1976 and also from subsidence caused by the drought conditions during the year was a creditable result.

There was a substantial increase in investment income of £29.9m to £92.4m, of which approximately £5.8m stemmed from the investment of the money raised by the rights issue and £11.7m from the effects of the depreciation of sterling. The balance reflects the real underlying growth of some 20%.

At the year-end the Group's capital and free reserves amounted to £466m which is equivalent to 42 1/2% of 1976 premiums.

The operating profit for the year after taxation was £50.2m, compared with £21.1m in 1975, and the final dividend recommended of 8.89p will bring the total distribution for the year to 14.72p compared with 13.38p in 1975.

Retained profits at £28.1m were substantially higher than in 1975 (£2.6m) but they alone are still not sufficient to keep the level of capital and free reserves rising in line with the growth of premium income, which reflects not merely the growth in business but also the effects of inflation. It is to retained profits and to market appreciation on the investment portfolio that we must look in the first place to finance future growth of both kinds. This is a problem common to all the larger insurance markets throughout the world and, with stock market performance in most major territories tending to be even less likely than in times past to keep up with inflation, the retained profit element assumes greater importance in meeting future financing requirements.

NATIONALISATION PROPOSALS

One of the more unwelcome developments during the year was the statement presented and adopted at the annual conference of the Labour Party in September 1976 recommending the nationalisation of the four leading clearing banks and the seven principal insurance companies in the United Kingdom, including the Royal. The Prime Minister has made it clear that nationalisation of these companies is not part of his Government's policy and we would hope that no such proposals will find their way into the Labour Party's next election manifesto. The mere threat of nationalisation has, however, already had harmful effects, for it is not easy to convince an overseas client or agent or indeed our overseas staff that a party conference resolution is not the same as government policy. The proposals can only be described as wholly ill-conceived and wholly bad, not just for the companies concerned, but also for the rest of the insurance industry (and banking) and, indeed, for the economy of the country as a whole. British insurance is a highly competitive and efficient industry which makes a vital contribution to our country's economy, not least through its substantial overseas earnings. Our own Group writes nearly a quarter of the overseas general business of British insurance companies.

There are suggestions from time to time that the investing institutions, such as insurance companies, are in some way responsible for a lack of investment in industry. In fact, the insurance industry has always been, and continues to be, one of the major sources of industrial finance. Declining investment by industry is not due to a lack of readiness on the part of insurance companies to provide finance, but rather because confidence has been sapped by the political attitudes adopted towards industry by Government, the growing web of legislation and bureaucratic controls and the high cost of money arising from excessive public sector spending and consequent borrowing requirements. It is not the supply of funds that has failed but the demand for them.

Much of the resources of the insurance companies are made up of personal long-term savings through life assurance or under pension schemes. The companies rightly regard it as their prime duty to invest these savings in the best long-term interests of their policyholders. In view of the substantial proportion of the population covered by life assurance and pension schemes, it seems reasonable to suppose that these interests equate with the national interest.

WILSON COMMITTEE

We welcome the appointment by the Prime Minister of the Wilson Committee to enquire into the role and functioning at home and overseas of the financial institutions in the United

Kingdom and their value to the economy and, in particular, to review the provision of funds to industry and trade. The insurance industry is very happy to co-operate with this Committee in its enquiries and we in the Royal will be playing our full part. We feel that this does give us an opportunity to explain perhaps more fully than we have done so far the structure of our industry and how we operate throughout the world in providing an essential service.

BULLOCK COMMITTEE

Another recent development of major importance has been the publication of the Report by the Bullock Committee on Industrial Democracy. The proposals it contains are now well-known and as far as we in the insurance industry are concerned the whole subject is a matter of great significance, not only as it affects us as companies, but also in our role as investors in a wide range of other major companies to which the proposals apply. The sweeping changes in board structures and responsibilities proposed in the Report would, in our opinion, create many more problems than they would solve and it is imperative that ample time for consideration and discussion is given before any action is taken on the recommendations. Otherwise confidence in industry and commerce is likely to be seriously undermined and recovery from the present economic difficulties impeded.

In the Royal there is a general recognition of the mutuality of interest between the company and the staff. In the United Kingdom much has already been done to extend the involvement of staff by participation and consultation through recognised trade union channels. On the strength of our experience of participation we submitted evidence to the Bullock Committee saying that we would be firmly opposed to the appointment of worker-directors other than on an entirely voluntary basis and advocating the need for participation to be developed from the bottom upwards. We have a world-wide business, some 80% of which is transacted overseas, and 80% of Group staff are located overseas. We cannot believe that legislation giving effect to the proposals of the Bullock Committee's majority report would be other than harmful to the interests of our company and its ability to contribute to the national interest by playing a full part in the insurance markets of the world.

PROSPECTS

It is not our practice to forecast our future progress but I believe that the actions we have taken in recent years throughout the world have greatly improved the fundamental quality of our business and, although we must be continually alert to changing circumstances, I think we are well placed to face the future. As has already been reported, we have in many parts of the world, and for a variety of reasons, been converting our operations from branches into locally established domestic companies and we believe that this too will help our ability to continue expanding, and expanding profitably.

Finally, I express gratitude on behalf of the stockholders and the Board for the devotion shown by the management, staff and agents throughout the world to the conduct of the company's affairs. I am confident that, with the continued exercise of their skill and determination, we shall be able to show further improvements in the company's fortunes in the current year.

Copies of the Report and Accounts can be obtained from The Registrars Department, 1 North John Street, Liverpool L69 2AS.

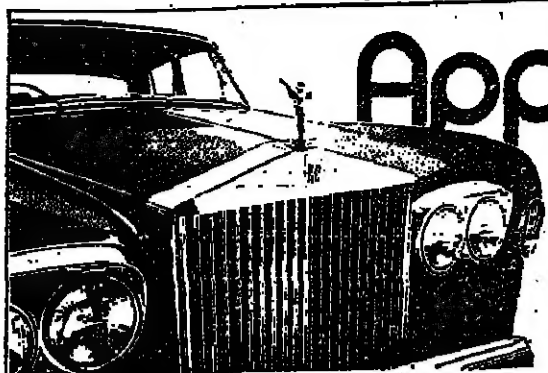
Summary of Consolidated Results

	1976 £m	1975 £m
General Insurance Premiums Written	1,091.8	786.9
Earnings		
General Insurance Underwriting Result	-17.8	-32.4
Investment Income on Stockholders' Funds	82.4	62.5
Stockholders' Long-term Insurance Profits	1.7	1.7
Share of Associated Companies' Profits	1.8	0.9
Profit before taxation	78.1	32.7
Less UK and Overseas Taxation	27.5	11.4
Minority Interests	0.4	0.2
Net Profit (per unit of stock)	50.2 (33.5p)	21.1 (15.6p)
Dividend		
Interim	8.8	6.4
Proposed Final	13.3	12.1
Total (per unit of stock)	22.1 (14.7p)	18.5 (13.4p)
Transfer to Retained Profits	28.1	2.6

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Account Days: Dealings Began, April 12, Dealings End, April 22. Contango Day, April 25. Settlement Day, May 3.
\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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1974 (Aug.) Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow 4-door Saloon. White with dark blue trim. Rec. mileage 18,750. £19,950

1974 (Oct.) Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow 4-door Saloon. Black with black trim. White leather. Rec. mileage 40,500. £19,950

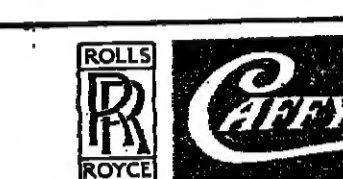
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1976 (Jan.) Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow finished in Walnut with Beige upholstery. 14,000 miles. £18,450

1975 (Feb.) Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow finished in Velvet Green with Tan upholstery. 23,000 miles. £16,450

1974 (Dec.) Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow finished in Scots Pine with Beige upholstery. 39,000 miles. £15,450

1974 (Jan.) Bentley T Series finished in Shell Grey over Seychelles Blue. Dark Blue upholstery. 40,000 miles. £14,550

1974 (Mar.) Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow finished in Shell Grey with Grey upholstery. 37,000 miles. £13,950

1973 (Nov.) Rolls-Royce Corniche Saloon finished in Seychelles Blue over Caribbean Blue with Dark Blue upholstery. 15,000 miles. £19,550

1973 (Jan.) Rolls-Royce Phantom VI 7-passenger Limousine. Finished in Coffee Bean Brown with Mustard leather to the front and Gold Drayton upholstery to the rear compartment. Fitted with television, cocktail cabinet, radio, telephone and stereo tape player. 26,000 miles. £19,550

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Rolls-Royce and Bentley specialists

Established 1921

ROLLS-ROYCE 20/25 Open Tourer

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F. PEDLEY & SONS

require

Late low mileage Rolls-Royce and Bentley motor cars.

IMMEDIATE DECISION

46 Henley Road, Bell Green, Coventry.

Tel. 0203 84031.

LEX MEAD, MAIDENHEAD

OFFICIAL ROLL-ROYCE DISTRIBUTORS

1977 (Feb.) Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow 4-door Saloon. Silver wire wheels. Rec. mileage 17

